



2009 Water Management Plan Update

San Antonio's proven success conserving and managing our water has made the Alamo City a national leader in water supply management. Now, San Antonio Water System is building on those achievements to meet the city's water needs for the next 50 years.

An update to SAWS 50-Year Water Management Plan leverages the utility's most successful innovations to ensure plentiful, quality and affordable water — now and for generations to come. The goal is to effectively manage our existing supplies, while developing new water sources for the future.

To keep rates affordable, SAWS is very cautious in choosing which water supply projects to pursue.

Water for Generations

Unlike many other parts of the country, South Central Texas is blessed with an abundance of groundwater supplies — enough to quench the region's thirst for hundreds of years or more. Public water systems like SAWS are required by state law to acquire permits to pump groundwater.

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Planning for Extremes

Under average weather conditions, and with continued conservation, SAWS already has enough permits to meet customer demand through 2034. However, because we can't count on normal rainfall every year, SAWS now uses a historic "drought of record" from the 1950s to help plan for worst-case conditions.

In an extreme, multiyear drought, pumping from our primary source, the Edwards Aquifer, would be reduced by 40 percent. If that drought started today, we would need to secure up to 37,000 more acre-feet of water rights by 2014 to meet peak demand. That's about 12 billion gallons.

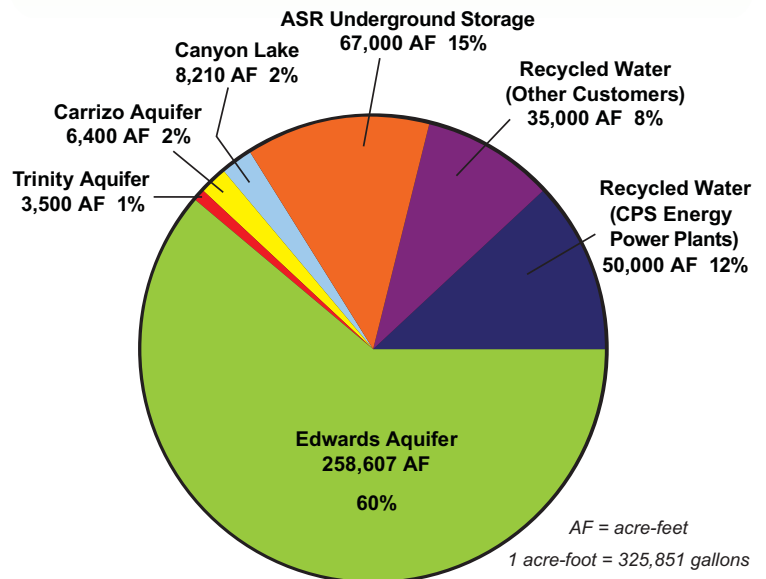
Meeting SAWS Customer Needs

While SAWS continues to work closely with many other agencies and communities, we recognize that most area water utilities prefer to plan for their own demand. In addition, SAWS ratepayers should not bear the costs of meeting other communities' water needs. We will therefore continue to plan with those willing to share the risks and costs of water supply development.

A Diversified Foundation

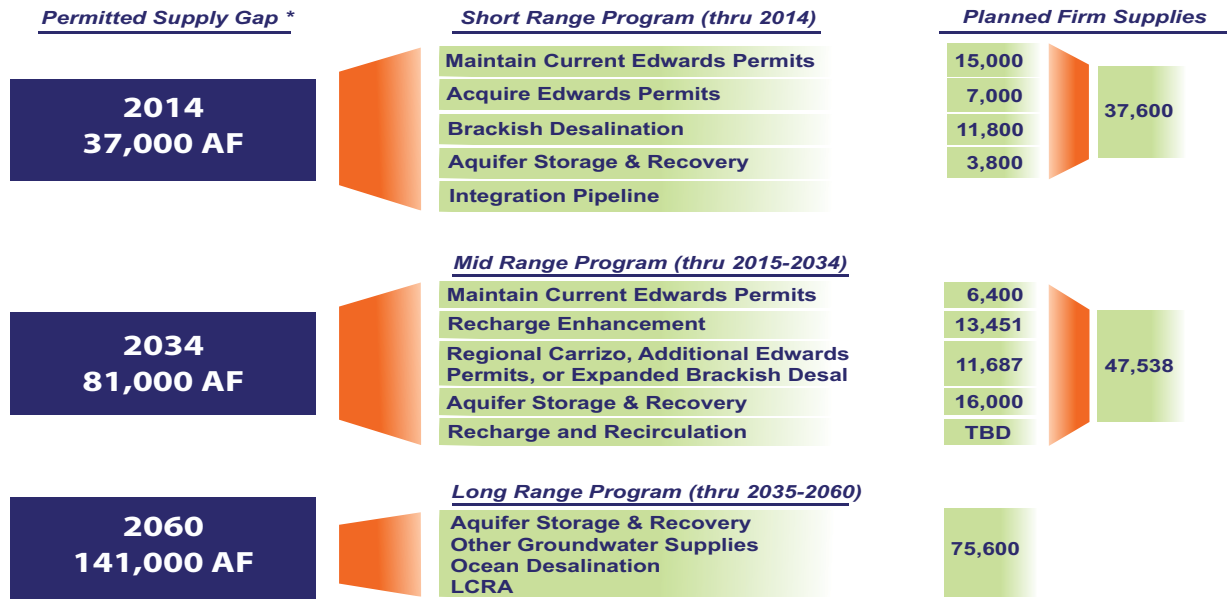
While the Edwards Aquifer will always be the cornerstone of San Antonio's water supply, SAWS has already successfully developed several alternative sources, such as Canyon Lake, the Trinity Aquifer, and the Carrizo Aquifer. Our recycled water program provides highly treated wastewater to CPS Energy and other industrial customers who would otherwise use drinking water. And our underground Aquifer Storage & Recovery reservoir allows us to collect unused Edwards water during wet years to use in times of drought.

Funded by SAWS customers through the Water Supply Fee, these successful projects represent an investment of more than \$615 million.



2010 SAWS water supplies under non-drought conditions

Where We'll Get Additional Water in the Future



*Assuming the single worst year of a drought of record given projected population growth.

AF = acre-feet
1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons

Managing San Antonio's Water Resources

16 billion gallons of water stored underground

In June 2004, SAWS opened the Twin Oaks Aquifer Storage and Recovery facility in south Bexar County — the first major project funded by SAWS customers through the Water Supply Fee.

Water is pumped from the Edwards Aquifer in wet times and stored underground in the Carrizo Aquifer. Later, during times of drought, the drinking water is pumped back into the existing distribution system to help meet peak water demands. If the water is not needed during a given year, it can remain in storage for future use.

The nation's largest recycled water system

More than 100 miles of purple pipe beneath San Antonio's streets can deliver 1 billion gallons of recycled water to commercial and industrial customers each year for non-potable uses.

Factories, golf courses, athletic complexes and other water-intensive businesses can make use of this near-drinking-water-quality resource, saving our fresh water supplies for drinking and other uses.

50% more customers 0% more water used

San Antonio's cheapest source of water is conservation — water we don't use. That's why our proven conservation programs have become a cornerstone of our long-term water management strategy. How do we know conservation works? Despite a 50 percent increase in customers over the same period, the volume of water distributed by SAWS remained the same in 2007 as in 1987.

Our management plan establishes an aggressive conservation goal of 116 gallons per-person-per-day during normal conditions. To meet that goal, SAWS will step up efforts to promote more efficient landscape water use through education, outreach and drought ordinance rules. We will also continue to promote indoor conservation through high-efficiency fixtures for homes and businesses.

With your help, we can keep SAWS rates among the lowest in the nation, while managing tomorrow's water today.

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