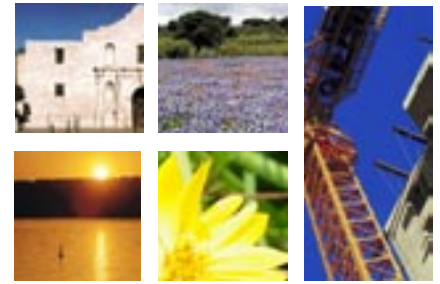


Frequently Asked Questions

WATERresourcePLAN

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Why did SAWS revise its long-term water resource plan?

In 1998, SAWS developed its first long-term water resource plan. The 1998 Plan, which was approved by City Council in 2000, mandated that a periodic review take place to ensure that our planning process be adjusted for "... new policies, changing circumstances, and new technologies" (Securing Our Water Future: 1998 Water Resource Plan). In accordance with this mandate, David Chardavoyne, the SAWS President/CEO, convened a multi-disciplinary, staff Task Force to evaluate all existing and proposed water supply projects. The recommendations of the Task Force are contained in the Water Resource Plan 2005 Update (2005 Update).

Mr. Chardavoyne presented the 2005 Update to the Board of Trustees on June 21, 2005. The Board of Trustees is not scheduled to take action on the 2005 Update until its August 16th meeting, to allow time to solicit and receive input from SAWS regional partners, municipal and state representatives, local businesses, associations, and the general public. Over one hundred meetings have been scheduled throughout the region to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the plan.

Why is SAWS using the 1984 planning year, rather than the 1956 drought of record?

The 1984 planning year is used to evaluate expected availability of various supplies and to ensure that our total supplies provide for projected water demands, even during critical period conditions.

The Task Force selected 1984 as its planning year, rather than the 1956 drought of record, because:

- 1984 is the last year of the driest three-year period in the last 30 years, during which each year received 26.2" or less of rainfall
- 1984 represents a more accurate reflection of current demand conditions, given the changes in agricultural, industrial, and residential use patterns; and per capita consumption over the past fifty years.

How much will all of the projects in the 2005 Update cost?

The recommendations outlined in the 2005 Update provide 2.4% more additional supplies, than those proposed in the 1998 plan at a reduction of the cost. The total cost of all recommended projects in the 2005 Update is \$2.1 billion, in comparison \$2.8 billion proposed in the 1998 Plan.

What water supply options are in the plan?

Attaining more aggressive conservation goals, through a combination of reductions in per capita consumption, implementation of the new water conservation ordinance (Ordinance #100322) that was passed by the San Antonio City Council in January 2005, and increased use of recycled water, remains our most important source of water supply. The 2005 Update recommends that SAWS adopt the goal of achieving a minimum of 116 gallons per capita per day in a normal year and 122 gallons per capita per day in a dry year.

In addition, the 2005 Update includes recommendations to continue:

- Edwards Aquifer water rights acquisition
- Recharge Initiatives Project
- LCRA-SAWS Project
- Regional Carrizo Project.

The 2005 Update also recommends that we add a brackish groundwater desalination project.



Frequently Asked Questions

Does SAWS reliance on the 1984 planning year differ from the 1956 drought of record planning standard that is currently used in our regional plans?

While the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group did use drought of record data for non-Edwards Aquifer water supplies, it did not use drought of record conditions for forecasting the availability of Edwards Aquifer water supplies. For planning purposes, an estimate of 340,000 acre-feet per year of available supply from the Edwards Aquifer was agreed upon by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group and the staff of the Texas Water Development Board. This quantity was adopted as a placeholder number until the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) obtains approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

Why is SAWS withdrawing from the Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project?

SAWS staff assessed each proposed water project in terms of cost, technical feasibility, environmental and regulatory risks, and contribution to the diversity of our supply portfolio. As a result of this analysis, staff recommends that SAWS withdrawal its participation in the Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project, because of the environmental and regulatory risks associated with the project's implementation. The inability to obtain favorable legislation regarding inter-basin transfer regulations added to the amount of risks with this project. Additionally, there could be adverse impacts on the endangered Whooping Crane, since the project might affect the bay's freshwater inflows and the blue crab population.

Does the 2005 Update rely on the Edwards Aquifer as the only source of water supply?

One of the recommendations is to acquire additional Edwards Aquifer water rights in the short-term. However, the 2005 Update does not represent a simple plan of relying solely on the Edwards Aquifer. In fact, if SAWS accommodates growth within its existing service area, 29% of our supply will come from non-Edwards sources in 2050. In contrast, if regional communities elect to have SAWS serve as a regional, wholesale water provider, more than 50% of our future water supplies will come from non-Edwards sources.

How can I learn more about the 2005 Update?

The 2005 Update can be downloaded from the SAWS website at www.saws.org. To schedule a briefing on the update for a business, community group, or neighborhood association, please call Mario Aguilar at (210) 704-7440.

