

On the WATER Front

A Message from Ed Archuleta, P.E., President/CEO



August 2010

Conservation Works

El Paso Water Utilities is included in the Far West Texas Water Plan, a 50-year management plan that we update every five years. The 2011 plan will incorporate the most recent population data, along with updated information on water demand, water resources, management strategies and costs.

The 2011 plan will forecast a 70 percent population increase over the next 50 years. Importation begins in 2040, which is 10 years later than previously planned. But the amount of water to be imported is reduced by half. This shows that conservation is working.

Indoor Conservation

Conservation also affects wastewater treatment. Reducing indoor water use reduces the amount of wastewater we treat, and the wastewater flows have decreased.

How did we do it? We offered free low-flow showerheads and clamps for evaporative cooler bleed-off lines. There were rebates for low-flow toilets, water-efficient washing machines and central refrigerated air systems. Free water-less urinals were available to government offices, restaurants and nightclubs. The result? Wastewater flows averaged 65 million gallons per day in 1990. The average was 59 million gallons per day last year.

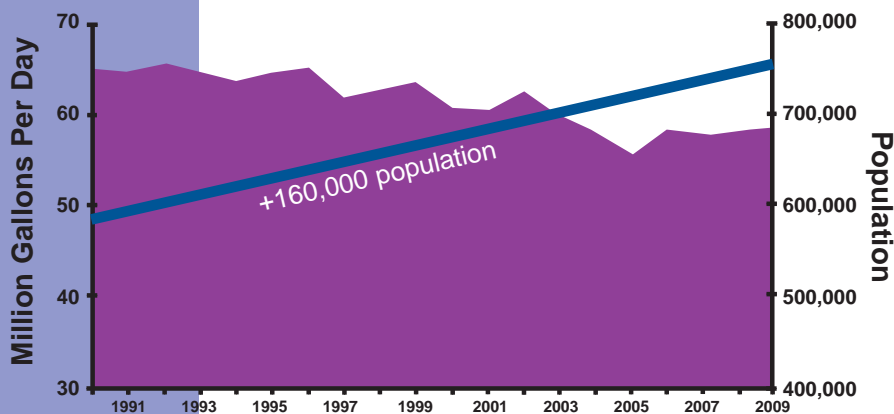


\$100 Rebate

Rebates available for water efficient washing machines.

Old machine **must** be turned over for recycling. Information: epwu.org or 621-2002.

Average Wastewater Flows



Conservation stretches water resources and reduces operating costs, but there's another benefit. Although the population has increased by 160,000 since 1990, we're using only 70 percent of our total plant capacity. This means we can accommodate El Paso's near-term growth without expanding the wastewater plants, which saves millions of dollars in construction costs.

Conservation works. We're meeting the challenges of serving a desert community and keeping pace with the city's growth. With continued focus on planning, policy and resources, we will serve El Paso for generations to come.