

Community Comments via WMP-input@saws.org

WATER WASTE

“Of course, water conservation remains a very important component in making sure there is sufficient water for all appropriate uses. This means that every water user needs to be careful not to waste water. Not only is water waste costly for the user, it also make water less available for other legitimate users.”

“Continue to monitor violations of watering on non-designated days.

Emphasize that water should never run in the street”

“My family is very conservative when it comes to resources. I'd ask that you have sharp increases for water abusers.”

“How much of this WMP should include replacing existing, aging infrastructure. Every time a pipe breaks, tons of water is lost. Whether it is clean or sanitary, it cost \$\$\$ to replace. Is there a way to increase focus on this issue? I know the cost and amount of time it takes to replace existing pipe, is high. Is it possible to place more resources towards this issue, in an attempt to limit water waste and environmental issues?”

“I am extremely frugal in my personal water consumption. This includes the lawn. Now if I am well under the 88 gallon usage per day goal how is it that when I drive to work I see so many commercial/ gov't landscaping areas watering? And unfortunately many of the nozzles are spewing into the street. This makes no sense to me especially when our water is monitored even when we are trying to grow a garden for fresh vegetables. Just saying.

Perhaps these water wasters should be monitored as we are.”

“Hello, I am emailing concerning water conservation in my neighborhood on the north side of San Antonio. We've just lived here for almost a year now and we see so much water wasted when neighbors water their lawns. First of all, the sprinkler heads are horribly inefficient. Most spray a fine mist into the air that either evaporates quickly or is carried away from the lawn and into the air, it does not end up where it belongs for the most part or their sprinklers are not working correctly and are spraying the sidewalk and the street. We have one close neighbor who has so much run off, because he lives on a hill, that he creates a small stream that flows downhill in the street just about every time he waters, sad to see. Those people should set their sprinklers to come on in short intervals to allow the water to soak in

rather than a continuous block of time. I've seen sprinklers come on after a three inch rain because people don't bother to shut them off for a week or so. A lot also do not follow the SAWS watering guidelines. I'm sure many other upscale neighborhoods do the same, so I don't even want to think how much of the best drinking water around is being wasted! If our neighbors and other neighborhoods would follow proper conservation practices I guarantee San Antonio would have an abundance of water and would NEVER have to seek out other resources. Please find a way to get people do a better job at water conservation."

"Out of simple concern for the waste of water from both leakage, overwatering and runoff from sprinkler systems and unsustainable exotic landscapes in San Antonio – these issues need to be addressed prior to the money spent on the regional water supply projects. I'm afraid San Antonio will continue to waste this increasingly expensive water, a limited resource based on our climate and location that we cannot afford to treat as another resource we can buy our way into."

XERISCAPING

"Greetings. Just wanted to add a comment regarding the SAWS water use and conservation plan. I would have loved to xeriscape my yard but my HOA forbids any thing over 20%. How about the city of San Antonio make this rule extinct? Too late for me, I had to install an irrigation system and sod at great expense."

"Is anyone ever going to recognize that San Antonio MUST start implementing Xeriscaping? Why do we need to wait until we have to practice water conservation? Pouring water on lawns is a horrendously bad use of water; a practice that should have been stopped years ago.

Xeriscaping can be done in clever and pleasing ways. Why? Because those person who are tragically accustomed to watering their laws do so to maintain property values. Xeriscaping can be done in ways without damaging property values.

Is WaterCitySA.com ready to promote serious water conservation by encouraging all San Antonians to go in the direction of Xeriscaping? I certainly hope so."

"Hello,

Here's an idea... STOP PLANTING LANDSCAPING IN ALL THE ISLANDS around Stone Oak and Canyon Golf Road and countless others. Why not try some xeriscape plans? All I see is more and more sprinkler systems being put in everywhere. Seems counterintuitive to me!"

EXPAND/ACCELERATE PROGRAMS

"After watching the video, several things come to mind. First, I believe that water conservation is a reverse form of water supply. What I mean by that, is that the cheapest water the City of San Antonio can get, is what we are able to save. Whether its through toilet programs, ASR or the recycled water program. So, I wonder if it is possible to expand these programs, either by altering the target data for

toilets, or creating an additional ASR or by working with the Mayor and City Council to change the building codes to allow for expanded conservation measures... Another Desalinization plant. When do we begin to discuss, the need for an additional, drought resistant, water supply. I know it's costly, but should we begin to talk about expanding the recently completed plant or even build another? I'm just not sure, how many more water supply projects are available, outside the Desalinization arena."

"The current SAWS projects for Water procurement, such as Brackish groundwater, water storage and non Edwards Aquifer source (Vista Ridge water pipeline); can we accelerate these existing project's."

RAINWATER HARVESTING

"This water seems to just drain into the green belt that is behind our house. I assume that this is somewhat of a measured additional bonus of these drains- green belt always looks great. Is there a way, however, to collect some of this run off? I feels as if it can be used for neighborhood beautification, individual yards or even recycled into the overall water system somehow. When we get a good rain storm, there are massive amounts of water coming through there.

Just a thought."

"It would be great if developers of new and expanded neighborhoods did more to design (allow space for) large water garden areas to control, filter and manage storm run-off and integrated those gardens in between the street systems and the creek way systems. I see this happening in some areas and not in others."

"Dear SAWS:

Any Water Management plan should include Water Catchment. I'm not talking about barrels. I'm talking about large systems that capture rainwater for use in irrigation and / or household. Most residential systems would be irrigation, since those are the least expensive to install.

Austin currently has a rebate system to subsidize installation, which is why they are leading the state in catchment systems.

Why won't you include this in your plan?"

"Implement use of cisterns in high density "water use" areas. My grandparents used this for local use. I just recently picked up 2 rain barrels from the SAWS event."

"As a denizen in San Antonio, I've participated in great SAWS rebates, removing my irrigation system, planting local plants, etc. What I find as a glaring piece, though, is the lack of incentives, or even education on rainwater harvesting, much as it's being done in Austin. I'm confident many San Antonio

homes would take advantage of a subsidized rain harvesting system, and of other great Austin only rebates - which would increase water efficiencies, and decrease strain on the SA supply (even if it's a small %)."

YEAR-ROUND RESTRICTIONS

"Limit watering of lawns at all times of the year regardless of the aquifer level. This will psychologically get people to always conserve whether we are in drought or not."

"We need to have restricted watering times year-round, regardless of drought conditions. As a Realtor, I'm frequently in various neighborhoods across the city and frequently observe property owners watering their lawns at absurd times of the day. In fact, the day before Stage 1 restrictions were released, I saw a sprinkler system being deployed at 3pm in 100+ degree heat.

Would you please recommend to City leaders that they enact strict watering times year-round?"

"I can see no reason for not being on Stage Two water usage at all time. Watering one day a week according to your address and within a certain time frame is ample. Anyone who uses more water should really have to pay through the nose for it. All seems to be fine right now because we have had good winter and spring rains, but we know what happens in the summer. And for anyone wanting to build a swimming pool, make it really, really expensive. San Antonio sits on the edge of a growing desert. The sooner we realize this, the better for all our community and the flora and fauna we share our city with."

RATES

"So, what if the customer were given a break on the fixed costs so that it made a noticeable on their bill? Yes, that's less revenue for those at that end of the spectrum but often these are the people, sensitive to costs, that can benefit and be rewarded for doing the right thing.

If a shift in structure were needed to offset revenue under this plan, the spread between low and higher users could be broadened so as to further encourage conservation. There should be no volume breaks in potable water price, residential or commercial. The only breaks should be to encourage 'purple' water where applicable."

"Therefore if residents choose to have a 'green lawn' at all times of the year then they should pay a significantly different rate. Perhaps a separate water meter for an irrigation system should be employed as a solution?"

"The costs for water supply will have to escalate and the real question is who will pay. In recent years we, the homeowners have paid, as they were included in the costs of development of the subdivisions. Your last fiasco ended up costing the water users, then was cancelled and the city reaped the profits. I have little faith in the future water supply plan and how it will be funded"

“I requested information from SAWS during the last rate increase proposals and SAWS was spectacularly unresponsive until my councilman got involved.”

“SAWS was also highly manipulative of data in the presentations to the public and the City Council during the 2015 rate increase discussions. The briefed rates presented to the RAC and the public were tweaked upwards by SAWS Trustees after the public input period through September but before going to the Council in October, superlatives were used that were not correct, values were omitted.”

MISCELLANEOUS

“Very impressive document, thanks for sending! Your GPCD goals are jaw-dropping, if you can achieve those, you’ll be a role model for the entire country. Wow.”

“SAWS staff have worked hard to produce this long-range plan that seeks to assure our growing community that safe drinking water will be available to all residential, commercial and industrial users for the foreseeable future.”

“Dear SAWS,

The Six Flags Fiesta Texas Team is appreciative of a plan that provides for a firm supply of water for decades into the future ensuring water availability to support the booming and growing tourism industry as a vital part of the San Antonio economy.”

“The overall water needs of our thriving, growing, and ever-changing city were thoughtfully taken into consideration which, after much dialogue and careful review, resulted in our recommendations and continued confidence knowing that SAWS has secured water for the next 50 plus years!”

“For example, would it be possible, for new housing developments to have 2 incoming water pipes, per parcel lot. One clean water, for bathing, washing and cooking. The second being a recycled water pipe, for watering the grass and feeding the toilets. You don't think you need fresh water, for either situation. Or, is it possible to take water in the sanitary pipes, already in the house, prior to going to the treatment plant, and using it a second time. That may require a filtration system and most filtration systems are inherently problematic. But, if there was better technology, maybe it could work.”

“We live in the I10 annexation area. We have our own good, deep well. We are very concerned if the annexation goes through as to the future of our water source. Our church in the annexation area is

currently switching to city water from their well at a big expense that we can't afford. We pray that the annexation doesn't go forward but if it does what does it mean for our water source?"

"Given that our public officials continuously facilitate & subsidize physical growth over many years, at what point does the SAWS Board and/or management indicate its concern regarding a pro-growth, subsidized agenda requiring additional water resources?"

It seems that SAWS is neutral on this question, or am I mistaken?"

"First and foremost SAWS needs to improve transparency and accuracy. Despite being a public entity, SAWS is unresponsive to private citizens requests for information regarding source data for published reports. This precludes any independent analysis and leads to speculation...SAWS is disingenuous is presenting data...Step 1 for the 2017 WMP: Improve transparency and accuracy."

"My yard isn't established yet and if we can't water it two or three times a week, it will die."

"Why can't we outlaw lawn watering altogether?"