# This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

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# GPCD Simple Math with Complex Problems

October, 2009

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**San Antonio Water System** 

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# **Topics**

- What is GPCD?
- How is GPCD used?
  - Total
  - Billed
  - Subsets
- Why is this so hard? What water & what people?
  - Service population vs. city population
  - Water to be included
- Advisory Council Proposals in Texas
  - Acknowledge how GPCD should and SHOULD NOT be used
  - Solve service population question
  - Analysis of Water Use Break Down



#### What is GPCD?

- Gallons per capita per day
  - Water/Population
- But...there are MANY versions of this:
  - Total GPCD
  - Total Potable GPCD
  - "Muncipal" GPCD
  - "Billed Potable" GPCD
  - Residential GPCD
  - Commercial GPCD
  - Non-Revenue GPCD



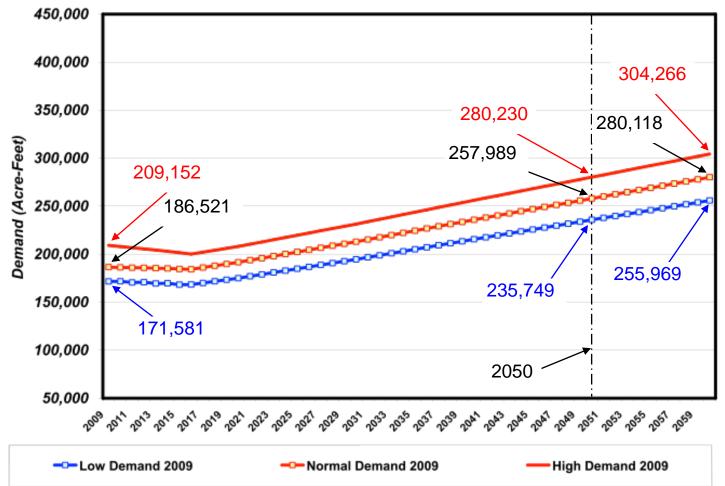
# **GPCD**; Why so hard?

- Comparing communities on total is hard
  - Industrial consumption varies
  - Agricultural consumption varies
  - Commuter population varies
- A "bedroom" community should have the lowest "Total GPCD"
- Water providers have different mechanisms to adjust for this
- State agencies have interesting ways to adjust
- Result: "Total GPCD" is impossible to interpret



# Why Calculate Total GPCD

Water Demand in Future Depends On It

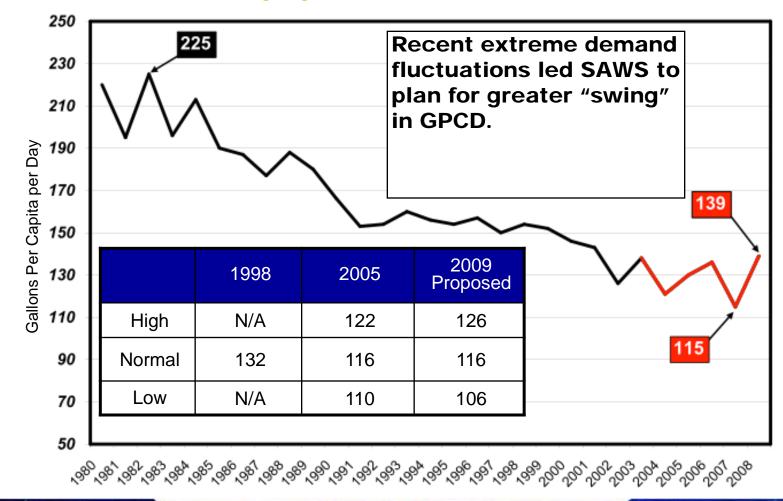


High (126 GPCD) Normal (116 GPCD) Low (106 GPCD)



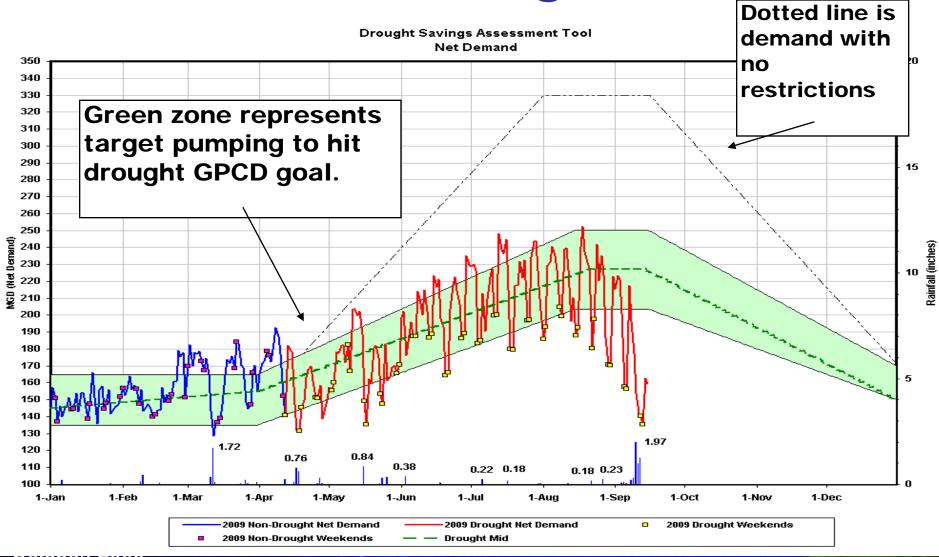
### Water Management Plan GPCD Goals

San Antonio Goals vary by demand conditions





# 2009 GPCD Planning





#### **Statewide GPCD Concerns**

- Need way for state to calculate GPCD for each water provider & region
  - GPCD used to rate "conservation success" for consideration of state funding
- Current system is best they can do now, but it is "black box" calculation
- State Water Conservation Advisory Council asked to address issue
- Have been working through challenge for a year; complete solution still in the future



#### **Texas State Needs**

- Reasonable way to estimate population within each service area
  - Working on solution through State
     Demographer using census updates and GIS
  - Still technical disputes to be worked out
- Consistent reporting by Water Providers that divides water into categories for GPCD calculation
  - Work group clarifying how water should be reported to state



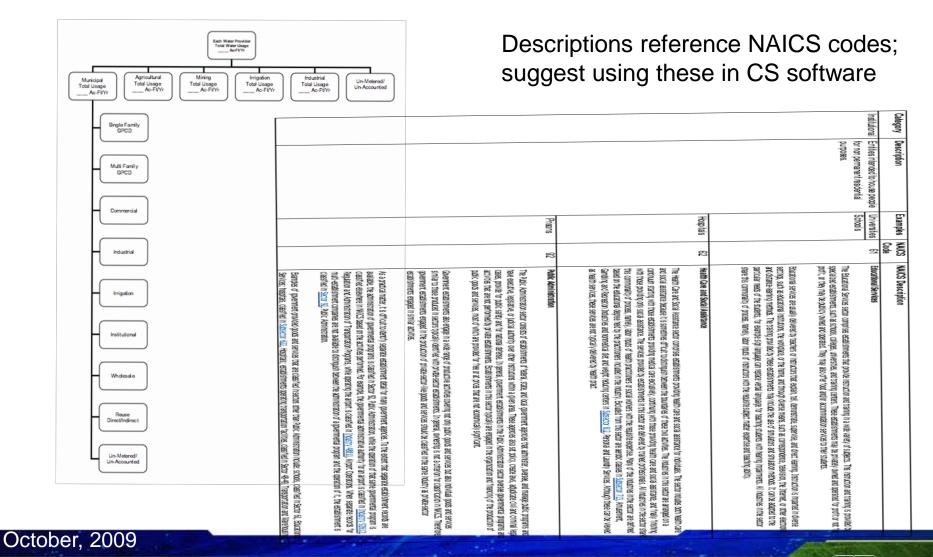
# **Proposed State GPCD Reports**

- No total to be put on state reports, but easily calculated if water use reports online
- Residential GPCD by provider and city
  - Ideal will divide single family and multifamily
  - This takes out commuter issues
- Commercial GPCD
- Institutional GPCD
- Nonrevenue GPCD

## **GPCD Tasks to Finish by 2011**

- Exact boundaries of water providers with GIS coordinates; TWDB/ TCEQ task
- Census data tool to allow calculation of population within any polygon
  - State Demographer working on this in 2010
- Updated water use surveys with clarification on how to divide water uses
  - Proposed project for TWDB
- State report on-line reporting and posting
- Proposed for TWDB

# Water Use Category- Muni Only



#### Conclusions

- Total GPCD is highly useful for water supply planning within a community
  - It is not appropriate for comparisons of utilities or communities
- Residential GPCD can be a future benchmark metric
  - We can teach people to know their "water footprint"
  - Can design rates and programs to support reasonable household usage based on GPCD goals
- Need to use newer technologies for estimates of current population and future population
- Improved common GPCD language would help

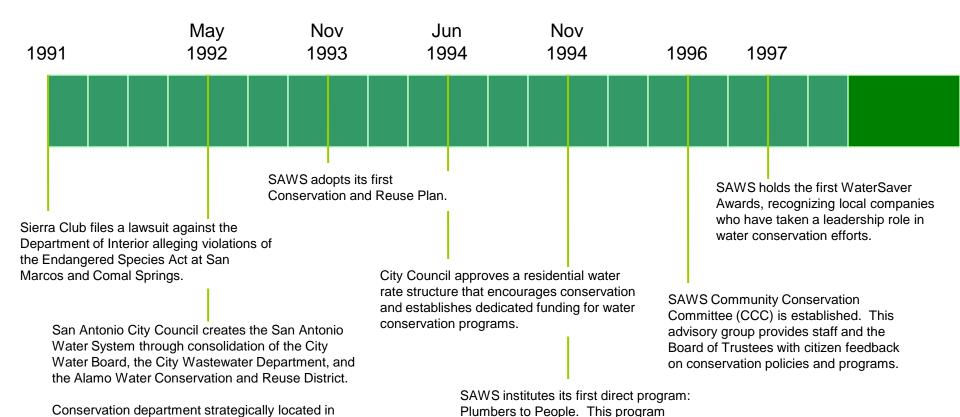


#### **Other Resources**

- Water Conservation Advisory Council website:
  - look for "Metrics Workgroup" for notes/reports
- Texas Water Development Board
- SAWS website: <u>www.saws.org</u>
  - look for Water Supply Plan for details on GPCD goals, population projections & supply plans
  - click on more aquifer statistics for pumping data correlated with weather, aquifer etc.
    - Does not show "net demand" reflecting only customer use\_ASR storage in pumping data.



#### **History of San Antonio Conservation**



provides leak repair services to low-

income households.

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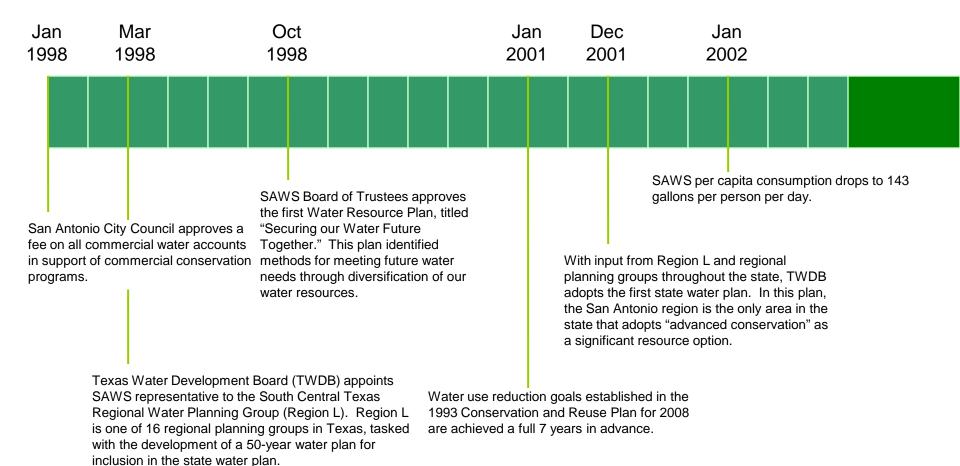
San Antonio Water System

the Planning and Water Resources department to

emphasize water conservation as a viable method

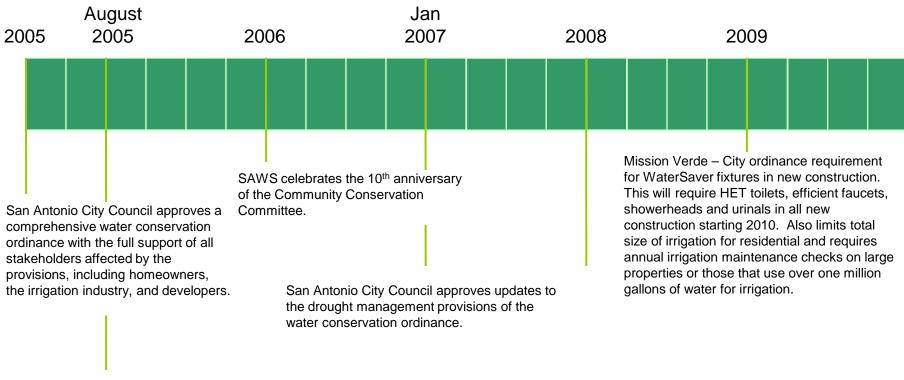
of addressing water resource challenges.

### **History of San Antonio Conservation**





#### **History of San Antonio Conservation**



SAWS Board of Trustees approves an updated Water Resource Plan that establishes even more aggressive water use reduction goals: SAWS will reduce normalyear per capita consumption to 116 gallons per person per day by 2016.





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