## This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

watersmartinnovations.com





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Water Smart Innovations
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Colorado Springs Utilities Water Service Territory

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#### Utilities Profile

- Four-service utility
- Semi-arid climate
- 6,150' Elevation

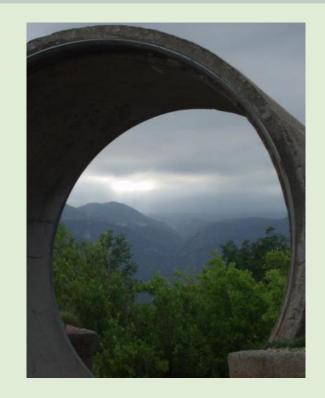


- 24 to 27 billion gallons sold annually
- 184 square miles served
- Majority of water from 200 miles away



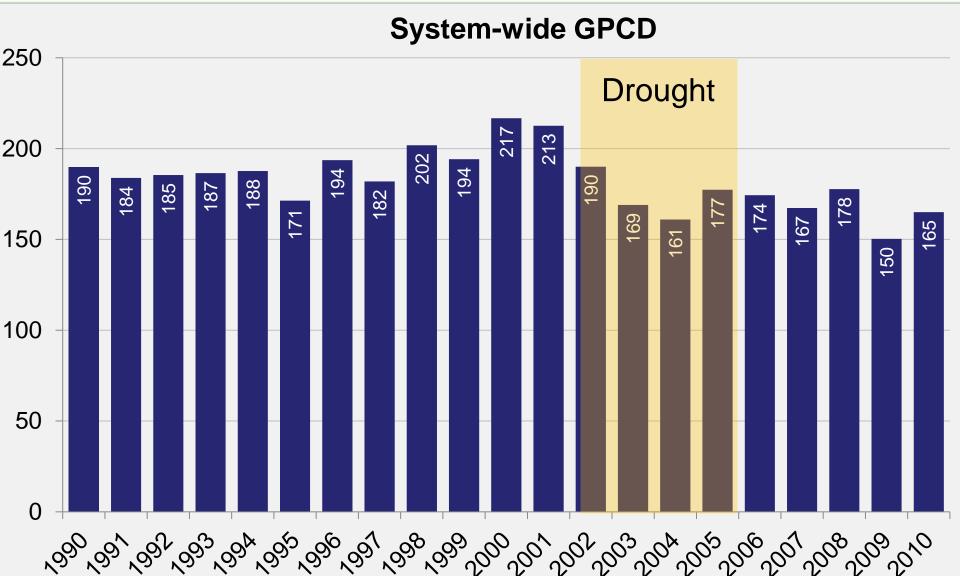


- Changing Water Demands
- Multiple Changing Influences
- Conservation & Pricing Policies
- Savings Estimates
- Role of Spatial Information
- Modeling Residential Water Use Spatially
- Spatial Information in Policy Management
- Moving Forward...





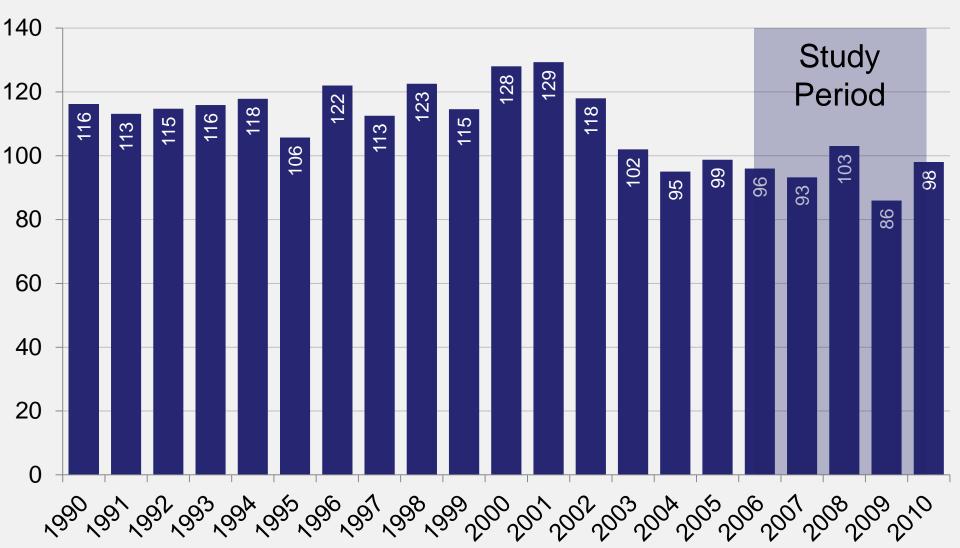
#### Water Demands





#### Water Demands

#### **Residential GPCD**





## Changing Influences

- Post-drought environment
  - Changing perspectives
  - Changing behaviors
  - Changing landscapes
- Economic downturn
- Penetration of efficient fixtures
- Water price increases



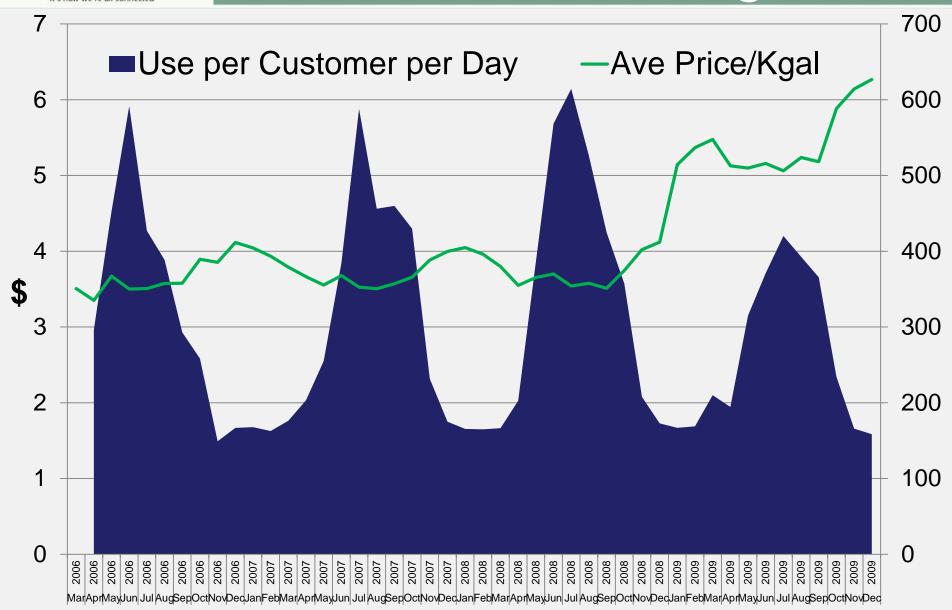


## Drought, Conservation and Pricing

- Four years of watering restrictions (2002-2005)
- 22 rebate and retrofit programs since 2002
- More than 35,000 rebates provided
- Conservation pricing since 2003
- 2,000 conservation presentations
- Media campaigns
- Xeriscape Demonstration Garden

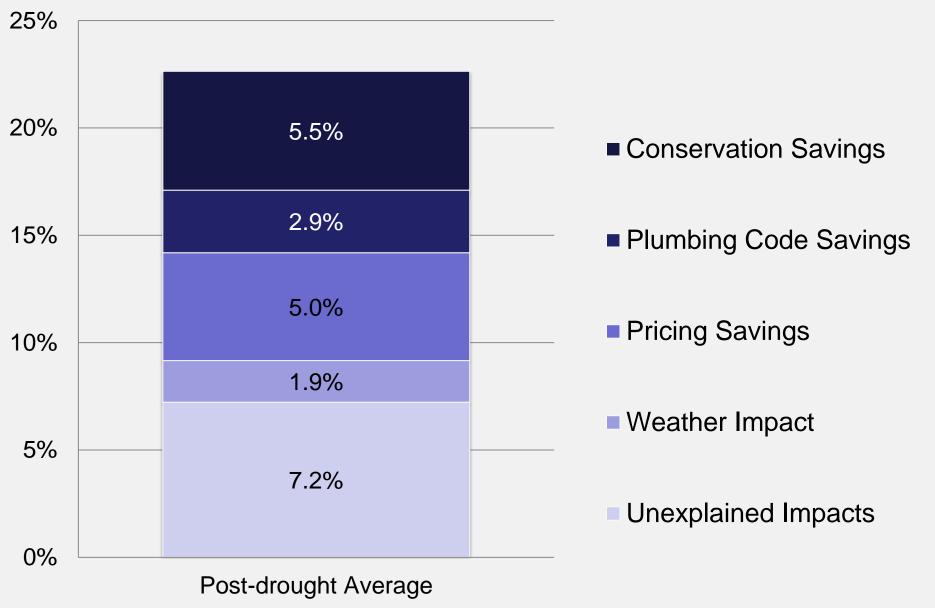


## Increasing Prices





## Savings Estimates





## Role of Spatial Information

Improved understanding of demand variability over both time and space

Improved understanding of conservation adoption

Improve efficacy of existing programs

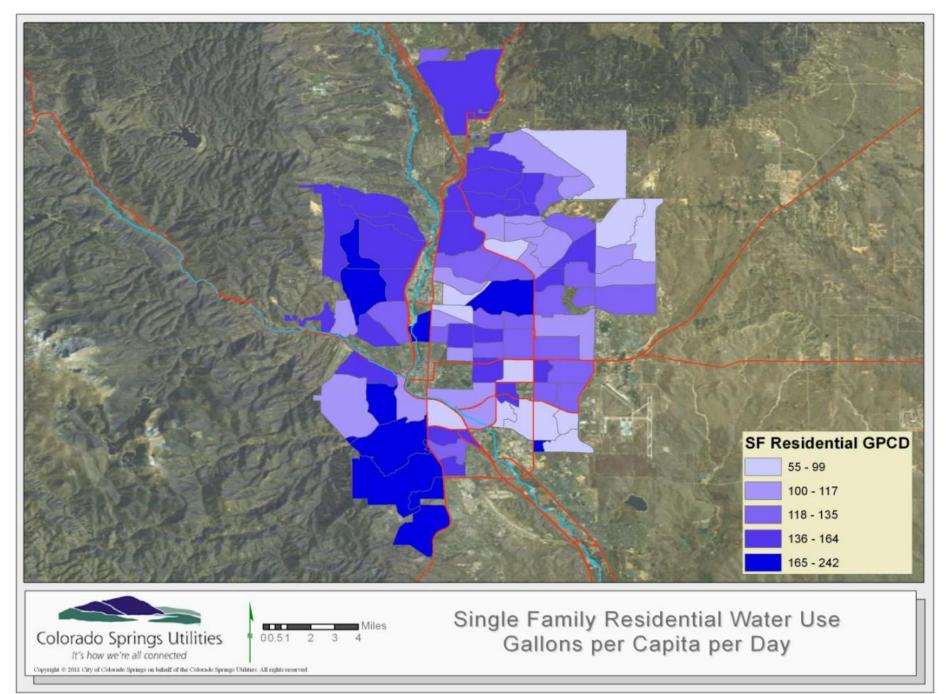
Better integration of conservation/ demand management with resource planning

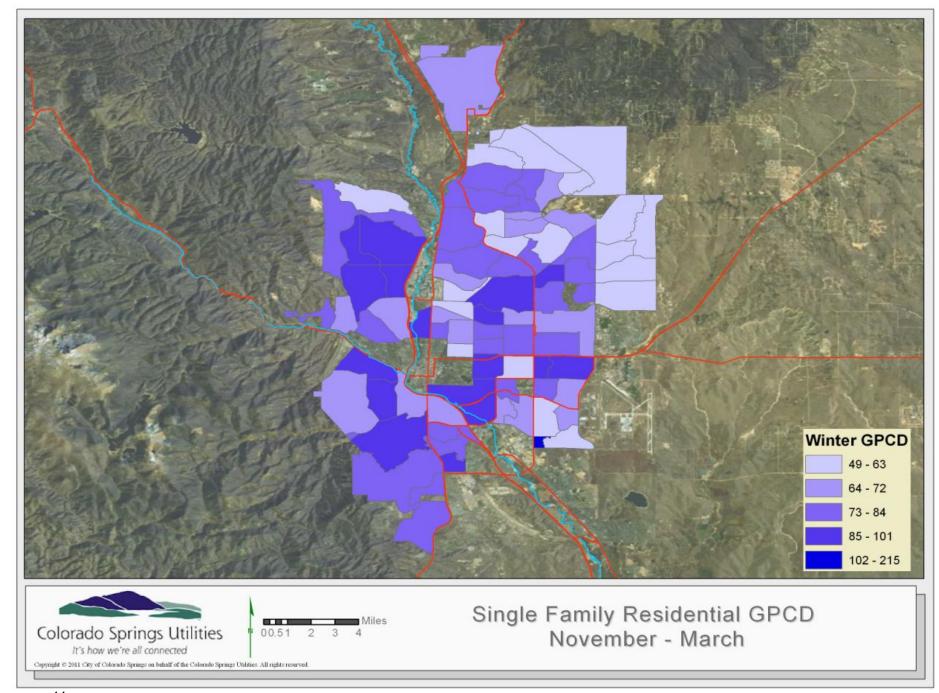
Better policy development

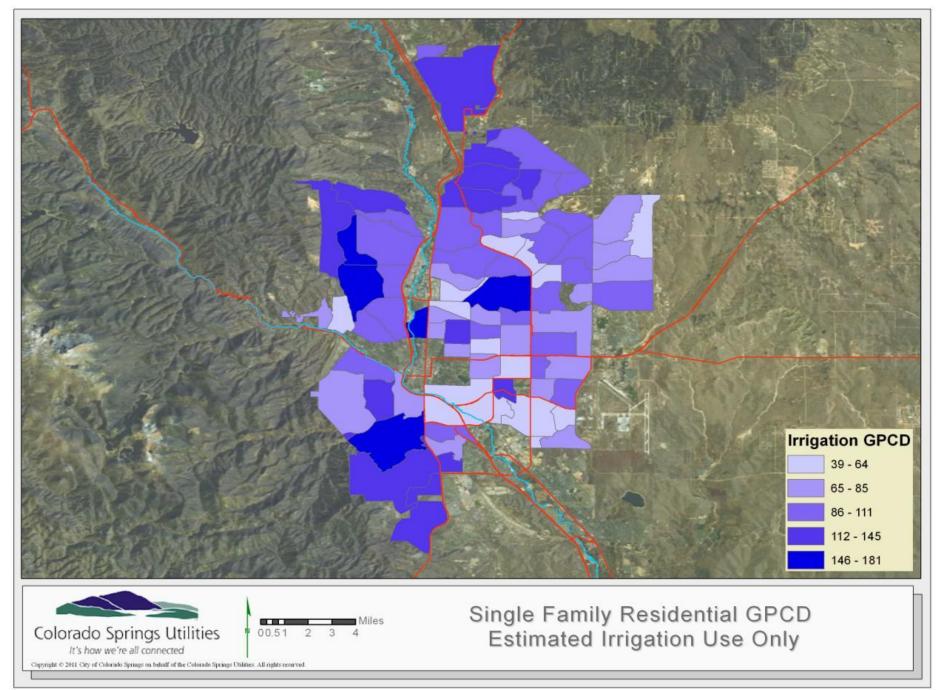


#### Residential Water Use Model

- Random sample of more than 2,700 customers (125,000 records)
- March, 2006 through February, 2010 study period
- Aggregated by 2010 Census Tract (n=4,471)
- Eliminated statistically insignificant tracts
- Used 2006-2009 tract-level demographic estimates from Census Bureau









#### Residential Water Use Model

- Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR)
  - Local statistics versus global
  - Water use is spatially dependent
  - Spatial models improve explanation

**GWR Model Equation:** 

$$y_i = \mathcal{B}_O(u_i, v_i) + \sum_k \mathcal{B}_k(u_i, v_i) x_{ik} + \varepsilon_i$$



#### Residential Water Use Model

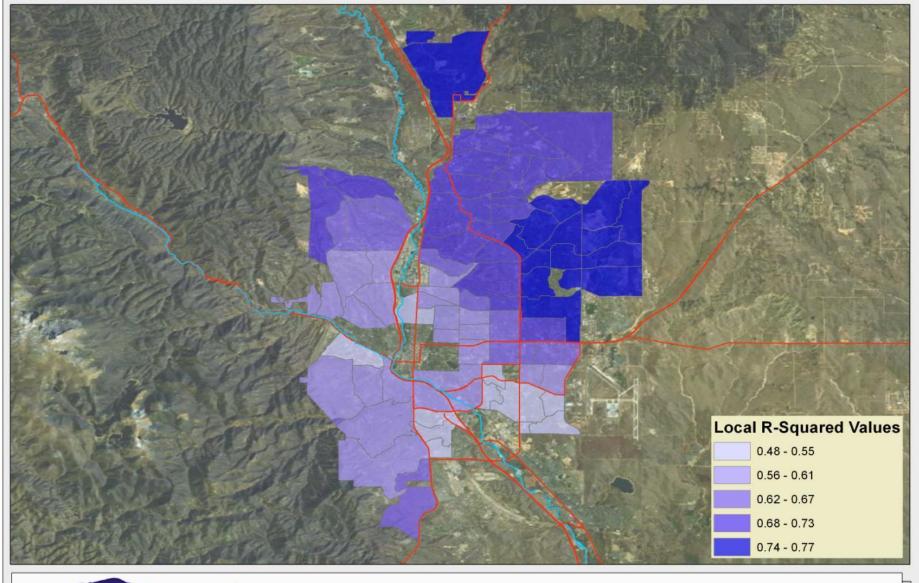
#### Model Explanatory Variables

- Gross evapotranspiration (Blaney Criddle)
- Effective precipitation (60% of total)
- Median lot size
- Average house age
- Average water price from previous bill

## Colorado Springs Utilities It's how we're all connected

#### Model Results

- R-Squared = .69 (OLS Model was .60)
- A 1-inch increase in gross ET results in an increase in use of 65.6 gallons/customer/day
- A 1-year decrease in house age results in a decrease of 1.3 gallons/customer/day
- A 1,000 square foot increase in lot size results in an increase of 7.2 gallons/customer/day
- An increase in effective precipitation of 1 inch results in a decrease of 32.1 gallons/cust/day
- An increase in price of 1 dollar per 1,000 cubic feet results in a decrease of 6 gallons/cust/day

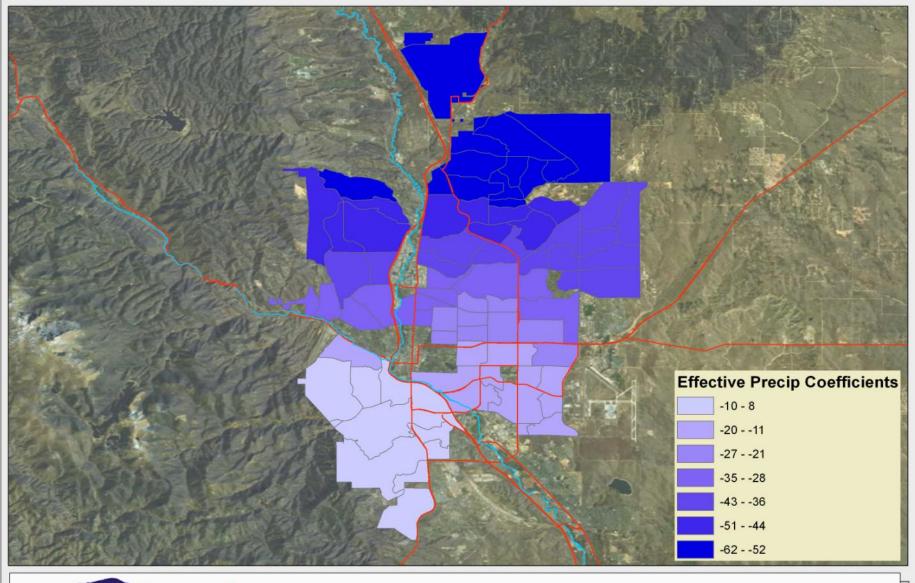






Single Family Residential Water Use Model Local R-Squared Values

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Single Family Residential Water Use Model Effective Precipitation Coefficients

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## Modeled Rebate Results

WaterSense Toilet Rebate	
Savings per Day	52.43
Savings per Year	19,138
Engineering Estimate	8,522
Rebates Given	2,411
Annual Acre-feet	141
MGD	0.12

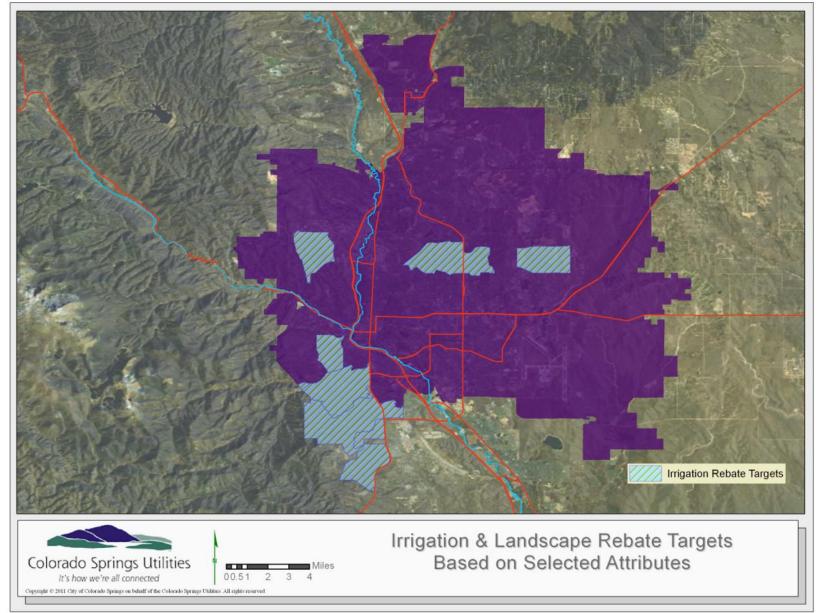


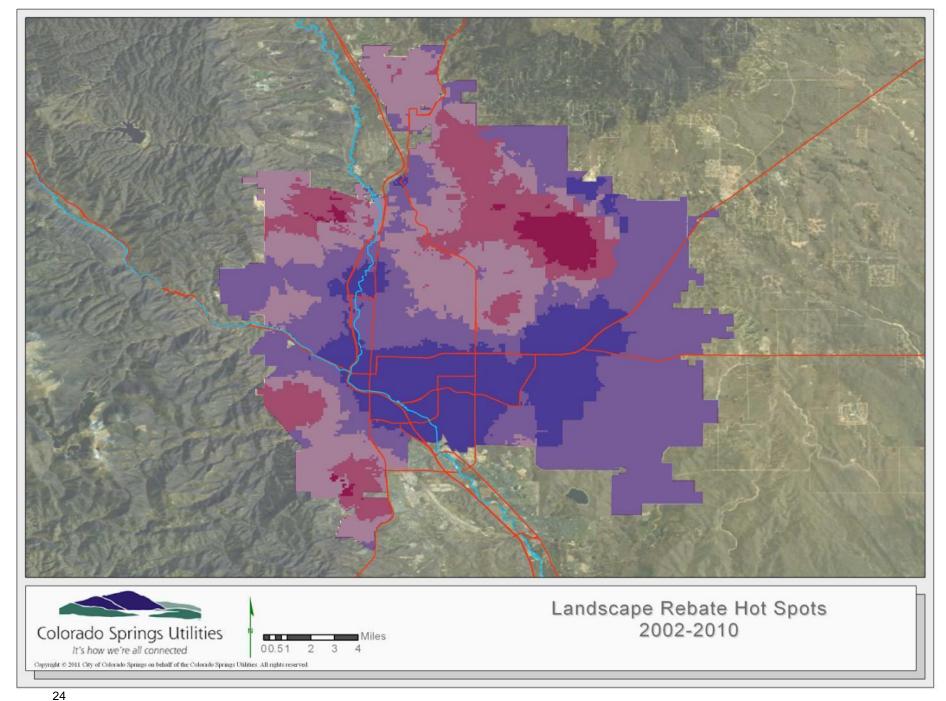
## Improving the Model

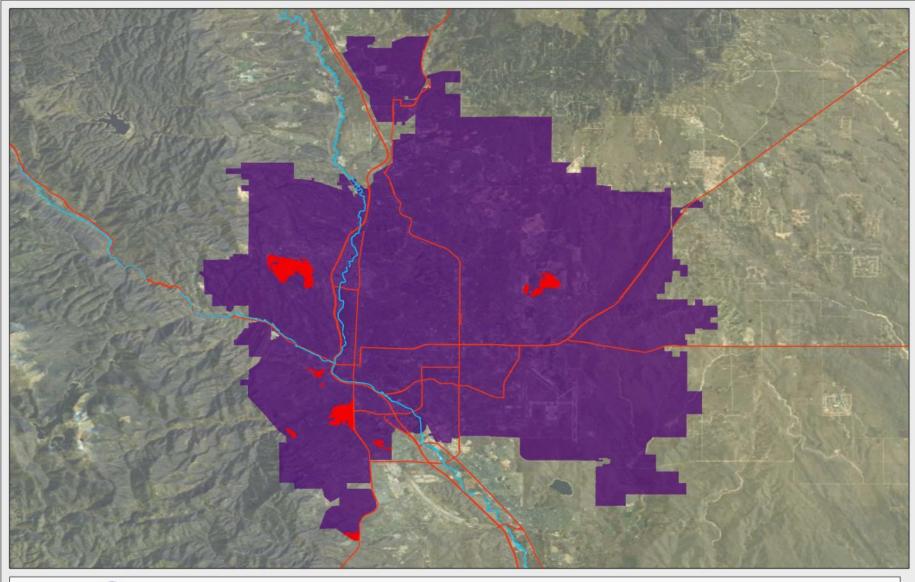
- Local weather data currently using airport data
- Irrigated area estimations –
   currently using lot size
- 2010 Census block-level demographics currently using tract-level estimates
- Consider larger sample or population
- Consider post-drought variable
- Consider including drought period data



## Rebate Target Analysis





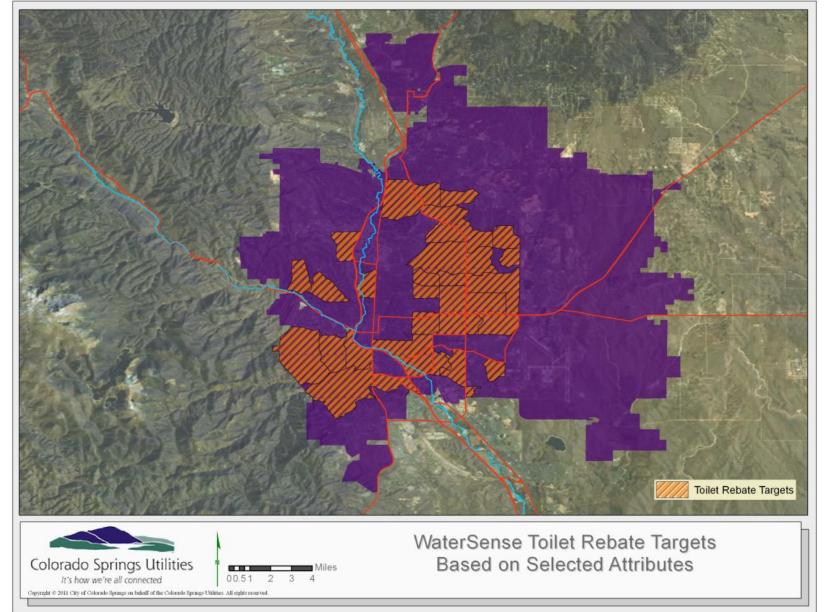


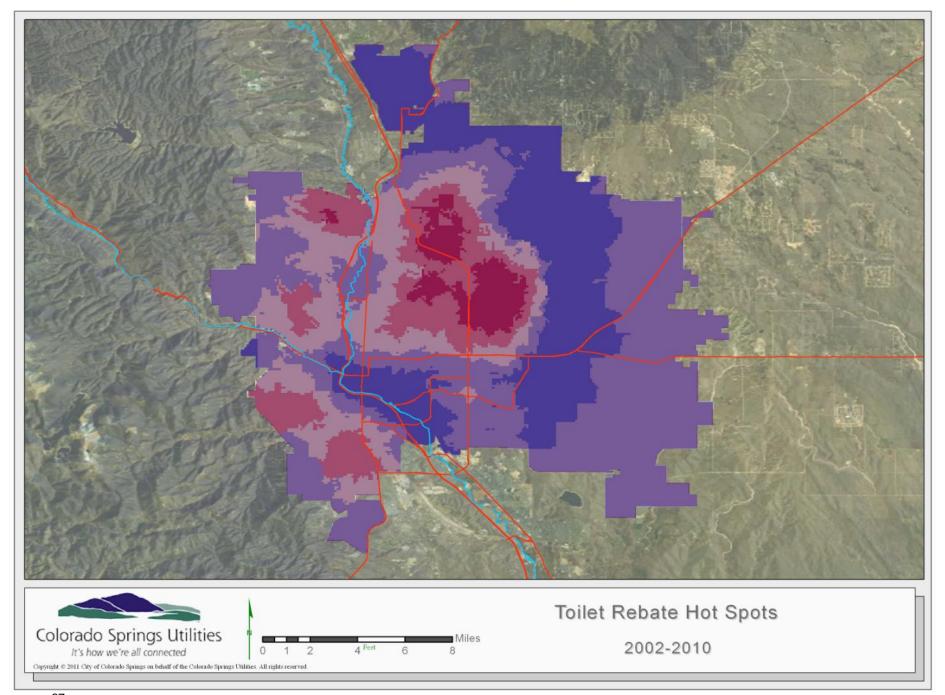


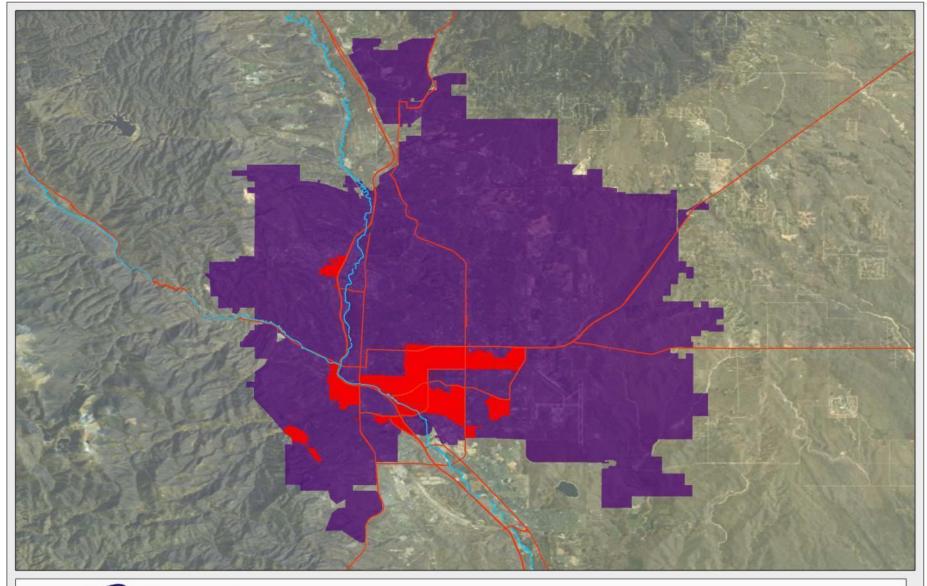
Primary Irrigation Rebate Targets



## Rebate Target Analysis









Primary Toilet Rebate Targets

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## Moving Forward...

- Modify marketing or programming tactics to reach target markets
- Refine conservation savings assumptions
- Integrate spatial modeling techniques into resource and conservation planning efforts
- Mine data to improve models
- Develop new approaches to understand unknowns
- Model non-residential use by land use



#### Questions?

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## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

# Meet Me at the Knowledge Exchange, Located at Booth #102 in the WSI Expo.

Date: Tomorrow

Time: 3 pm