# This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

watersmartinnovations.com



# Surprising Savings Single Family Super Users

#### Karen Guz

Director, Water Conservation San Antonio Water System

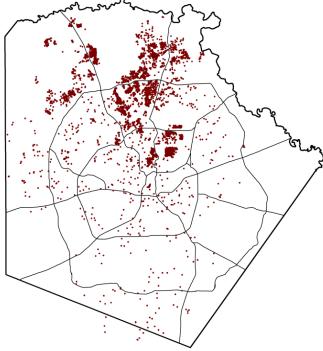


## What Are Super Users?

High discretionary use customers who drive summer peak

- Defining Super Use
- What is impact?
- Why target them?
- What do they care about?
- Results?

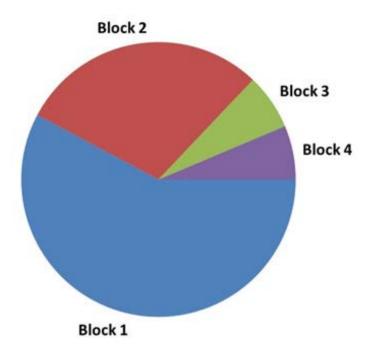






## **Residential Water Use Variable**

#### Most SAWS customers use modest amounts of water



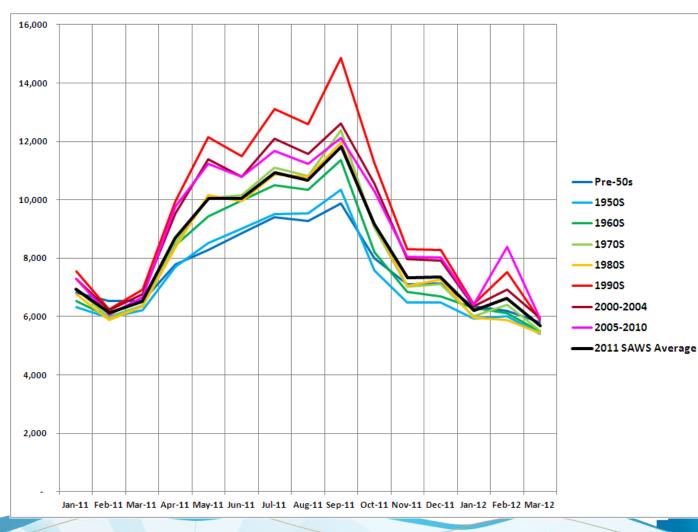
Rate Block	Gallons of Use	% of Bills		
1	0 – 5,985	58%		
2	5,986 - 12,717	29%		
3	12,718 - 17,205	7%		
4	17,206+	6%		

Only 6% of bills hit the top tier, BUT customers in this category accounted for 24% of residential water sales in 2013.



## **Outdoor Water Use Trends**

#### New homes using more water than older homes

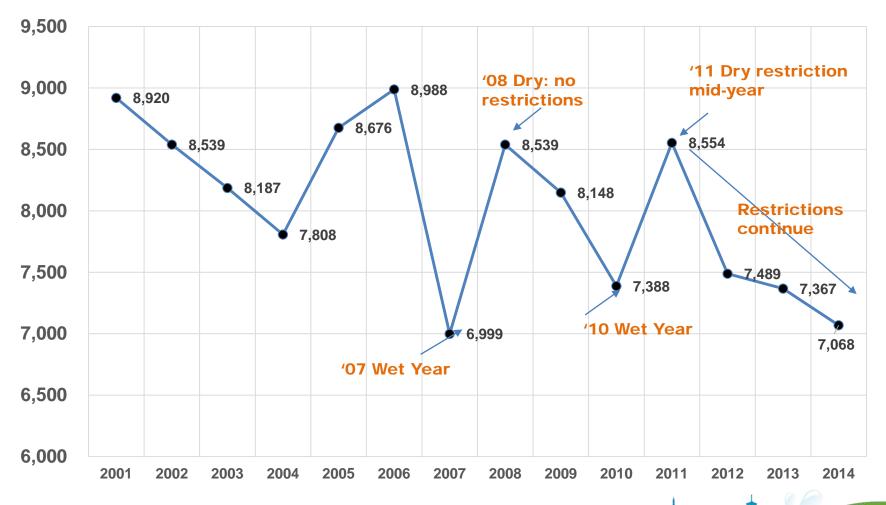


- Trend
  across
  the
  country
- Irrigation systems more standard
- Peak demand growing!



# **Residential Monthly Average Trends**

### Volatility = discretionary use changes

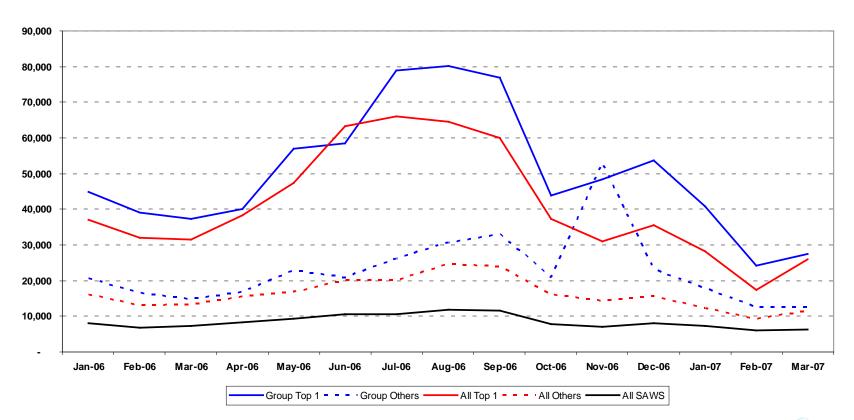




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## **Peak Demand Variability Analysis**

#### Highlights where peak user patterns by neighborhood



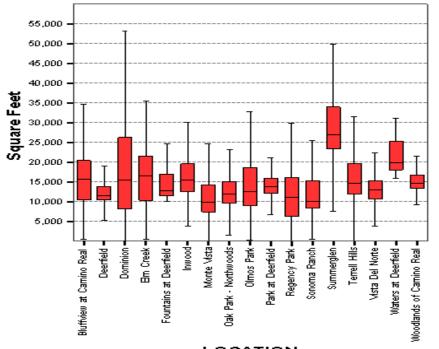
Dominion



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## Water Use Patterns By Neighborhood

#### Know your target group



LOCATION

- What is outlier?
- Know what is "average?"
- Are irrigation systems new? old?
- Types of plants?
- Some landscapes already updated?
- HOA rules?



## **Concierge Style Conservation**

#### **Message: Experts Are Here to Help**

- Build relationships with homeowner associations
- Know property management companies
- Offer services in cooperation with both



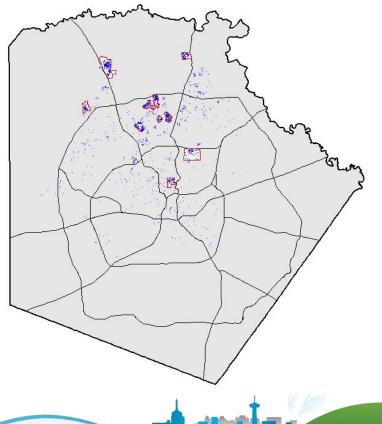


## **Neighborhood Sweep Weeks**

**Direct Mail Promote Conservation Consult Service to Neighborhood** 

- Goal: Reach 10% of homes with consults
- Whole team of consultants in neighborhood for days
- Can double team large lots
- Shared expertise
- Lots of walk-ups!

#### **Top 1% User Neighborhoods**





## **Control the Controller First**

### Do the math & go for schedule changes with customer



The average "super user" consult from a mailer saves 4,000 gallons/month from schedule adjustments alone!

- Engage customer in understanding where their water goes
  - Gallons/Min/Zone
  - How much of their bill
- Suggest reductions
  - Show savings result!
  - Signature before change



## What Changes Save So Much?

Rare to find a top user home without savings from settings

- Stacked programs are common problem
- All zones set to save schedule
- Convince them to turn down lower priority areas
- Push going manual every time!



Key seems to be that customer fully understands the impact of irrigation schedule choices on total consumption per month.



## **Super User But Conservation Minded**

### **Commercial sized irrigation with over 24 gallons/minute flow**







## **Custom Rebates: Let's Make A Deal**

Large residential sites have large challenges to overcome

- Combined irrigation rebate PLUS plant change
- Contract equals cash check upon completion
- Custom amounts based on irrigation GPM





## **Promote Pretty & Trendy**

#### **Conservation cannot be a deprivation message**

Dig in!	N! Your resource for inspiring designs, drought-hardy plants and regional expert advice to transform your yard into a water-saving showpiece!				ert advice to	Stage 2	Restrictions	
S A N 🏟 A N T O N I O	PLANT	LANDSCAPE	Tips	Galleries			System	
GARDEN STYLE	FIND a	DESIGN your	GARDEN	Seasons	search	0,	Stal San Antonio Water System	
CADDENI COVIE		T management	r	Coupons	4		1	



#### MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR COUPONS

Plan ahead and read our six tips before you start your project.

#### CURRENT WATERING ADVIC 🐺 .5 in 6 .5 in Lawn: 🖲 5 in 20 in Beds

The glacier pace towards fall continues. I have been guaranteed again that it will become cool and rainy by Oct. 30. Stage 2 watering schedule is still in effect. September 28, 2015 Mark Peterson, Conservation Project Coordinator





REMOVING GRASS Tired of maintaining that water-guzzling lawn? Lisa demonstrates methods on removing your grass.

**HOW-TO VIDEOS** 

## WaterSaver Landscape Tour

### High end gated neighborhood with gorgeous landscapes

SAVE THE DATE: WATERSAVER LANDSCAPE TOUR IS OCT. 24









## **Conservation Bottom Line**

Adding up the savings house by house

- 16 Neighborhood Sweep Events
- Twice the savings when signed up through direct mail push
- Half of consults from pushing program to higher users
- Increased consult program savings by 25% per year
- New Rebate Model: growing with custom amounts!

Side Benefit Influential customers gush to city and utility leadership about the service



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