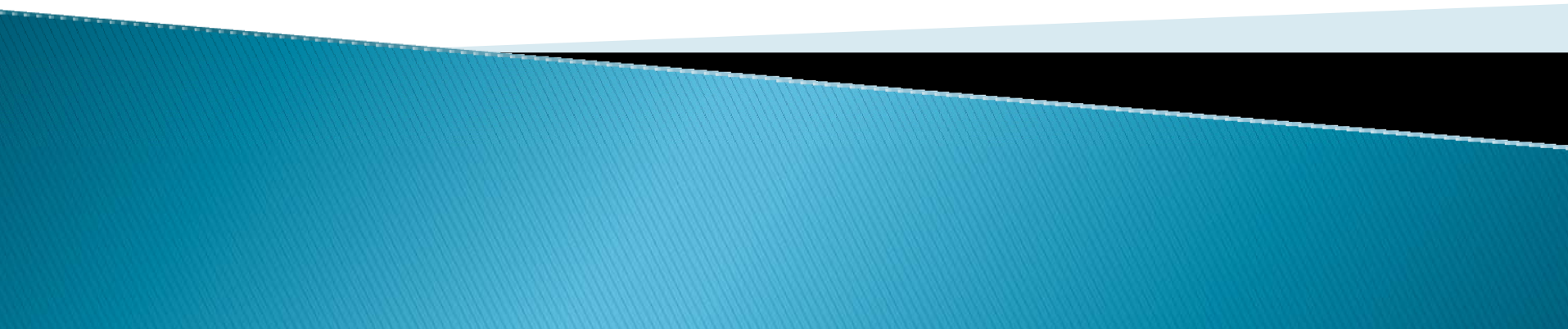
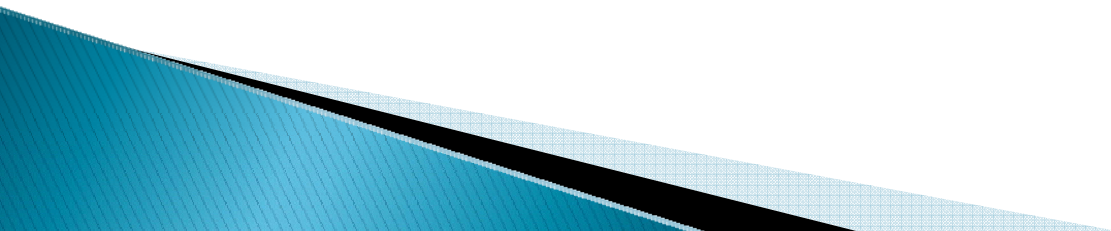


RMC Presentation to City Council on Water Conservation and Drought Management

August 25, 2011



Topics

- ▶ Conservation Goals and Plans
 - ▶ Drought Contingency Plan
 - ▶ RMC Recommendations
 - ▶ Community Input
- 


Conservation Goals

1. Reduce peak day water use by 1% per year 2007 – 2017.
2. Reduce average water use to 140 gallons per capita, per day by 2020.

Conservation Plan must be:

- ▶ Measurable and Targeted Programs
 - ▶ Progress Monitored and Reported
- 

2007 Water Conservation Task Force

- ▶ Public discussion with staff support
 - ▶ Savings assumptions discussed
 - ▶ Customer hardships discussed and considered
 - ▶ Ordinances passed – which make up the largest savings recorded
 - ▶ Community embraced changes
 - ▶ Remaining issues to be addressed by AWU
 - ▶ Development of Implementation Task Force who would report to RMC
- 

Citizens Water Conservation Implementation Task Force

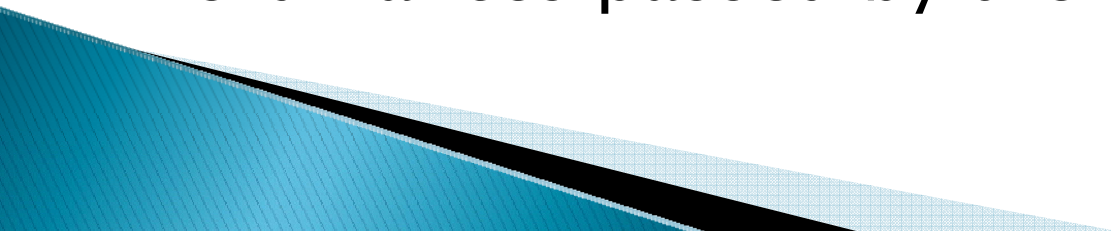
- ▶ Established Jan. 2007 –continue to provide stakeholder input and support during the implementation of the 2007 WCTF recommendations.
- ▶ Aug. 2009 – the task force requested council to expand their efforts to investigate other recommendations for programs.

Council directed RMC to report progress to Council on Implementation in 2010.



RMC Review of 2007 Recommendations

July 2010 – RMC reported significant portions of the 2007 recommendations had not been implemented.

- ▶ Reduced support for the 2007 recommendations and savings assumptions due to staff turn-over.
 - ▶ Most significant savings had come from ordinances passed by the Council.
- 

“140 Plan”

AWU staff were asked to evaluate the program suggestions from the CWCITF and incorporate the recommendations from 2007.

Council voted to adopt the recommended goal of an average 140 GPCD by 2020 and asked AWU to address the question:

What will it take to reach 140 GPCD?



140 Report – Dec. 2010

Conservation to reach total annual pumpage to meet 140 GPCD Goal – and reduced peak demand to meet 1% per year goal.

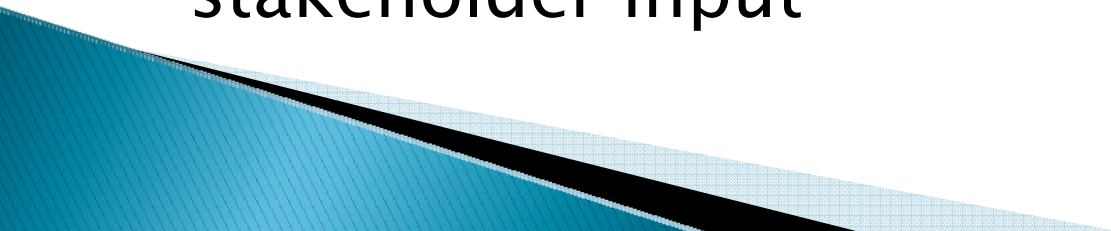
- ▶ Requires Code changes
- ▶ Requires water use changes
- ▶ Requires investment
- ▶ Requires additional staff
- ▶ Requires fee changes
- ▶ Emphasis from incentives to enforcement

This plan has not been publicly vetted.



Transparency

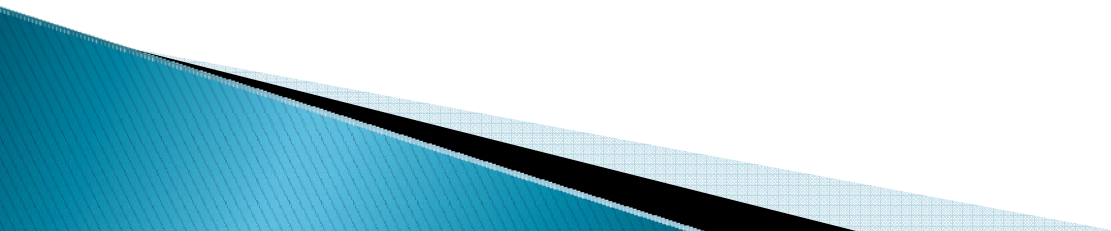
RMC efforts to oversee program progress and success in implementation will require:

- ▶ Changes in reporting and benchmarking
 - ▶ Open review of cost effectiveness – including assumptions used in savings calculations
 - ▶ Planning for pipe replacement
 - ▶ Study of potential for reclaimed water
 - ▶ Program planning – that allows for stakeholder input
- 

Austin Drought Plan

Plans submitted in 2004 and 2009 as required by TCEQ – meet reporting requirements.

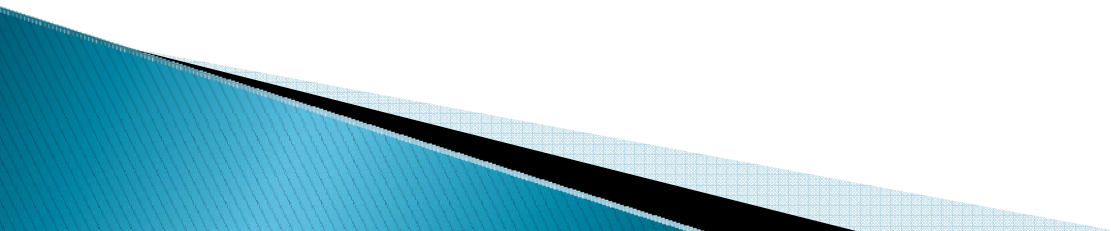
Specific request by RMC to reevaluate within one year has not been addressed:

- 1 – triggers are not supported with use data
 - 2 – additional actions could be incorporated
 - 3 – multiple stages could be developed
 - 4 – enforcement plan?
- 

Stage 1

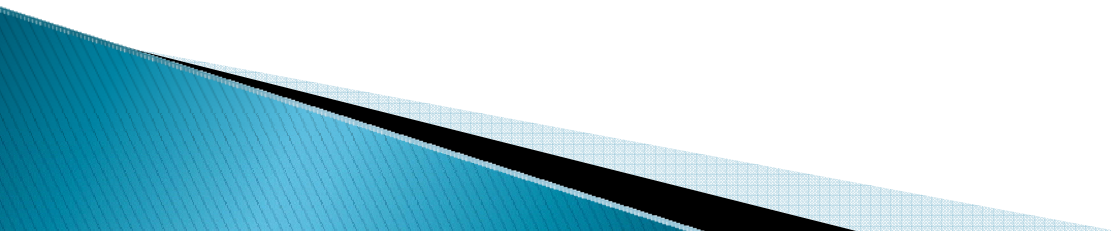
- ▶ Now adopted as the normal Summer restrictions, so no additional restrictions have been in place to date.

Sophisticated customers in Austin could easily do more...



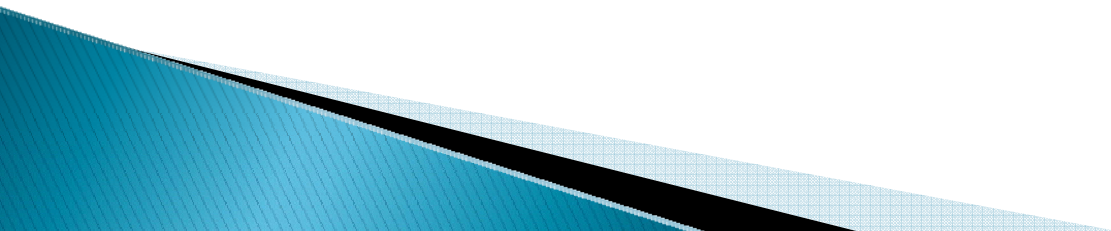
Stage 2

Restricts:

- ▶ Once a week watering with increased enforcement and fines
 - ▶ Restaurants – water offered to customers
 - ▶ Charity car washes prohibited
 - ▶ Outdoor fountains – except state properties
 - ▶ Automatic pool filling devices
- 

RMC Recommendations

Review of Drought Plan triggers and stages
Updated analysis of savings potential and measurable annual targets for conservation.
Develop additional Code or Ordinance changes.
Identify targeted programs for specific customer classes that have not previously engaged.
Annual report to RMC and Council on the progress toward both goals.
Transparent – open discussion of new programs.
Discussion regarding plan for Sustainability Fee
Cost of Service Study for Reclaimed Water
Development of plan for Pipeline Replacement



Community Assessment of AWU Programs

- ▶ Some CWCITF recommendations were reportedly misinterpreted.
 - ▶ Citizens critical assessment given little or no data to support their rebuttal.
 - ▶ Enviromedia plan for outreach – developed with emphasis on trade marking and the source of Austin's water.
 - ▶ Reliance on voluntary program (3C) which has no tracking or evaluation criteria.
 - ▶ Little or no discussion of the drought has been seen in their media, website, or public announcements, until this week.
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