



# **WATER FORWARD**

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE PLAN

Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force

Packet Index

July 17, 2020

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# Special Meeting of the Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force

## July 17, 2020 at 1pm

### Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force to be held July 17, 2020 with Social Distancing Modifications

Public comment will be allowed via telephone; no in-person input will be allowed. **All speakers must register in advance (Day before the scheduled meeting, July 16<sup>th</sup> by Noon).** All public comment will occur at the beginning of the meeting.

To speak remotely at the July 17<sup>th</sup> Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force Meeting, residents must:

- Call or email the board liaison at 512-972-0194 or [marisa.flores@austintexas.gov](mailto:marisa.flores@austintexas.gov) no later than noon, (the day before the meeting). The information required is the speaker name, item number(s) they wish to speak on, whether they are for/against/neutral, and a telephone number or email address.
- Once a request to speak has been called in or emailed to the board liaison, residents will receive either an email or phone call providing the telephone number to call on the day of the scheduled meeting.
- Speakers must call in at least 30 minutes prior to meeting start in order to speak, late callers will not be accepted and will not be able to speak.
- Speakers will be placed in a queue until their time to speak.
- Handouts or other information may be emailed to [marisa.flores@austintexas.gov](mailto:marisa.flores@austintexas.gov) by Noon the day before the scheduled meeting. This information will be provided to Board and Commission members in advance of the meeting.
- Residents may watch the meeting here: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/watch-atxn-live>



**Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force  
July 17, 2020 at 1:00pm  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING**

**For more information go to:**  
**[Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force](#)**

## **AGENDA**

### **Voting Members:**

Sharlene Leurig - Chair	Perry Lorenz	Vanessa Puig-Williams
Jennifer Walker – Vice Chair	Robert Mace	Sarah Richards
Todd Bartee	Hani Michel	Lauren Ross
Diane Kennedy	Bill Moriarty	

### **Ex Officio Non-Voting Members:**

Austin Water: Kevin Critendon  
Austin Energy: Kathleen Garrett  
Austin Resource Recovery: Tony Davee  
Neighborhood Housing and Community Development: Sam Tedford  
Office of Innovation: Kerry O'Connor  
Office of Sustainability: Lucia Athens  
Parks and Recreation: Liana Kallivoka  
Watershed Protection: Mike Kelly

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER – July 17, 2020 at 1:00pm**

## **2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- a. Approval of the meeting minutes from the May 4, 2020 Task Force meeting

## **3. STAFF BRIEFINGS, PRESENTATIONS, AND OR REPORTS**

- a. Water Forward Implementation Progress and Outlook – City Staff (15 min)
  - i. Task Force Questions and Discussion
- b. Technical Advisory Group and Task Force Subcommittees Recap – City Staff (30 min)
  - i. Indirect Potable Reuse Subcommittee
  - ii. Ordinance Subcommittee
  - iii. Aquifer Storage and Recovery Technical Advisory Group
  - iv. Task Force Questions and Discussion

- c. Affordability Discussion – City Staff (15 min)
  - i. Task Force Questions and Discussion`

#### **4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **5. ADJOURN**

Note: Agenda item sequence and time durations noted above are subject to change.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force, at 512-972-0194, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force, please contact Marisa Flores Gonzalez at 512-972-0194 or [marisa.flores@austintexas.gov](mailto:marisa.flores@austintexas.gov)

# MINUTES



**The Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force convened in a Special Meeting on May 4, 2020 with Social Distancing Modifications.**

**Members in Attendance:**

Sharlene Leurig - Chair

Jennifer Walker – Vice Chair

Lauren Ross

Robert Mace

Vanessa Puig-Williams

Perry Lorenz

Bill Moriarty

Hani Michel

Diane Kennedy

**Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:**

Kevin Critendon, Mike Kelly, Matt Russell

**Staff in Attendance:**

Teresa Lutes, Katherine Jashinski, Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Helen Gerlach, Geneva Guerrero, Shay Roalson

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Leurig called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

None.

**2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting minutes from the March 3, 2020 Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force regular meeting were approved on Member Mace's motion and Member Walker's second for a final 7-0-2-2 vote.

**3. STAFF BRIEFINGS, PRESENTATIONS, AND/OR REPORTS**

- a. A staff update on Water Forward implementation progress and outlook was provided by Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Austin Water. This was followed by Task Force discussion and input.
- b. A staff update on Water Forward Ordinances was provided by Katherine Jashinski, Austin Water. This was followed by Task Force discussion and input.
- c. A staff update on Aquifer Storage and Recovery was provided by Helen Gerlach, Austin Water. This was followed by Task Force discussion and input.

**4. ADJOURN**

Chair Leurig adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:17 pm.

# **PRESENTATION**



# Water Forward Task Force Meeting



7/17/2020



# Agenda

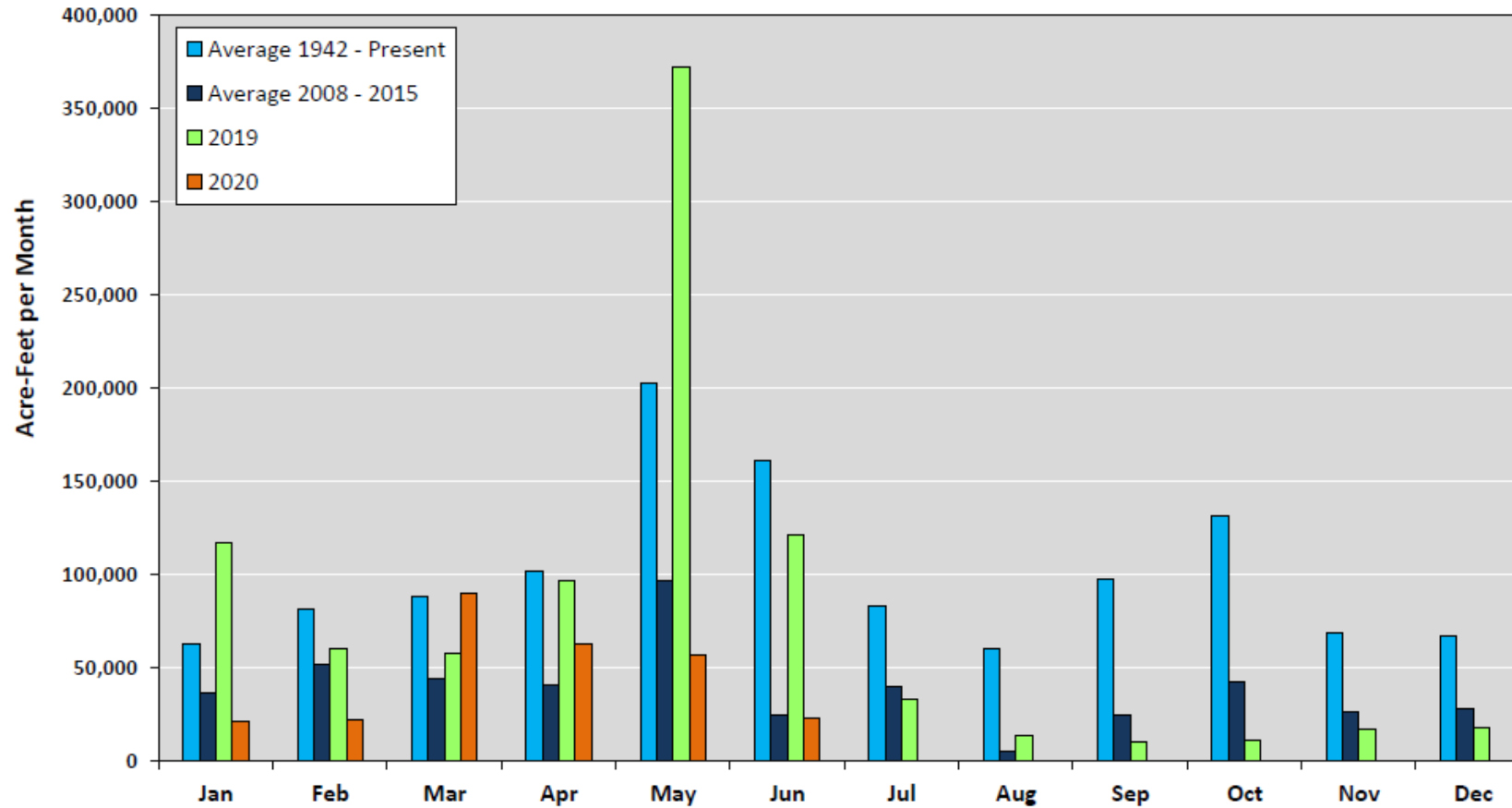
- Approval of the May 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- Water Forward Implementation Progress and Outlook – City Staff (15 min)
  - Task Force Questions and Discussion
- Technical Advisory Group and Task Force Subcommittees Recap – City Staff (30 min)
  - Indirect Potable Reuse Subcommittee
  - Ordinance Subcommittee
  - Aquifer Storage and Recovery Technical Advisory Group
  - Task Force Questions and Discussion
- Affordability Discussion – City Staff (15 min)
  - Task Force Questions and Discussion

# 3a. Water Forward Implementation Progress and Outlook

# Current Water Supplies

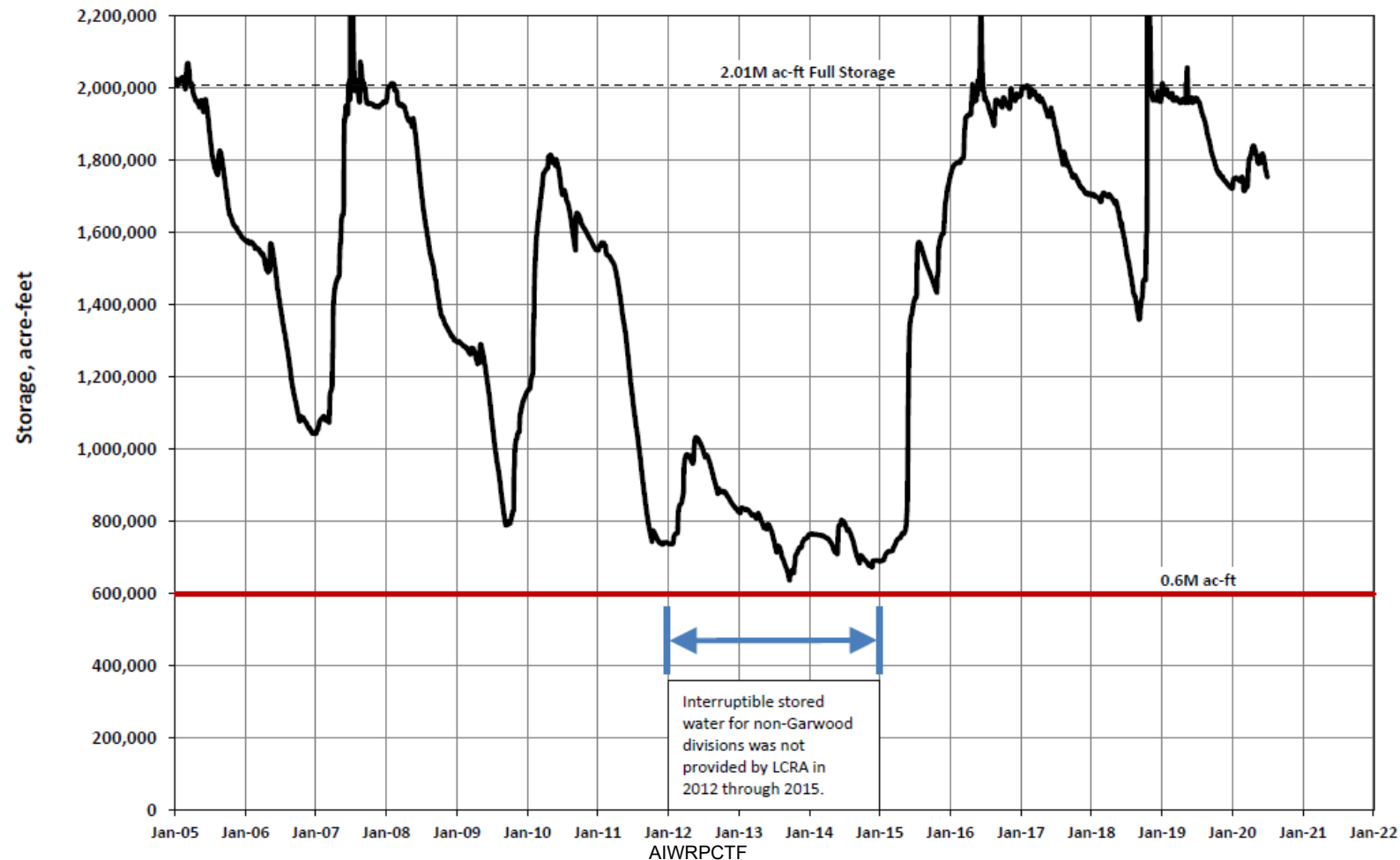
## Monthly Inflows to Lakes Buchanan and Travis

Data through June 30, 2020



# Current Water Supplies

Combined Storage of Lakes Buchanan and Travis  
January 1, 2005 through July 1, 2020



# Water Forward Strategies

## Reducing Demand

- Benchmarking
- Advanced Metering Infrastructure
- Water Loss Control
- Conservation Ordinances and Incentives

## Moving Reuse Forward

- Onsite Reuse
- Centralized and Decentralized Reclaimed

## Protecting our Core Colorado River Supplies

- Working with our Regional Partners

## Building Resiliency

- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- Indirect Potable Reuse

Continued Stakeholder Engagement



# Advanced Metering Infrastructure

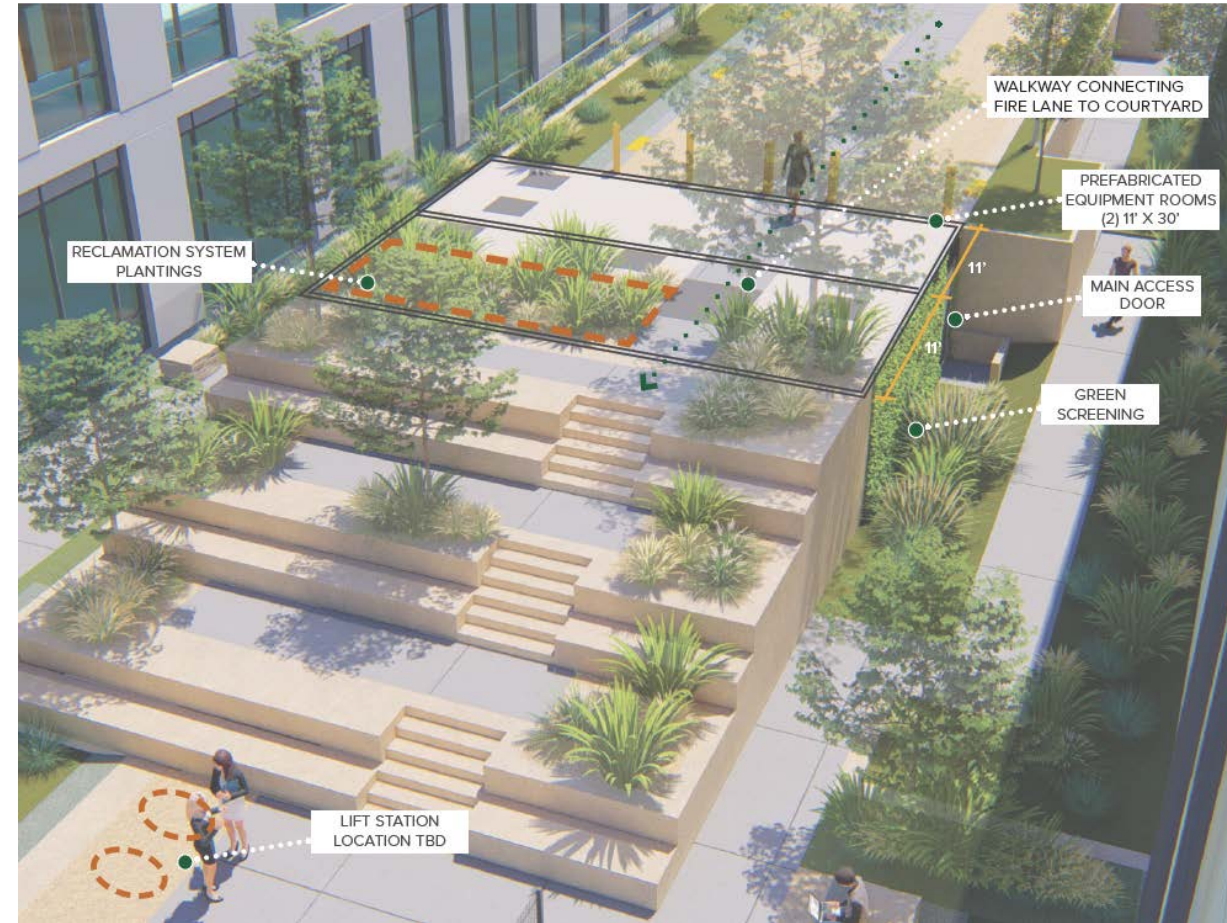
# MyATX Water



## Austin's Smart Water Meter System

# Onsite Reuse

- Planning and Development Center pilot commissioning ongoing through Fall 2020
- Staff has developed a draft Onsite Reuse Regulatory Framework
- Stakeholder engagement currently planned for Fall 2020





# Centralized Reclaimed Water

- Staff is continuing work on the Centralized Reclaimed Master Plan update



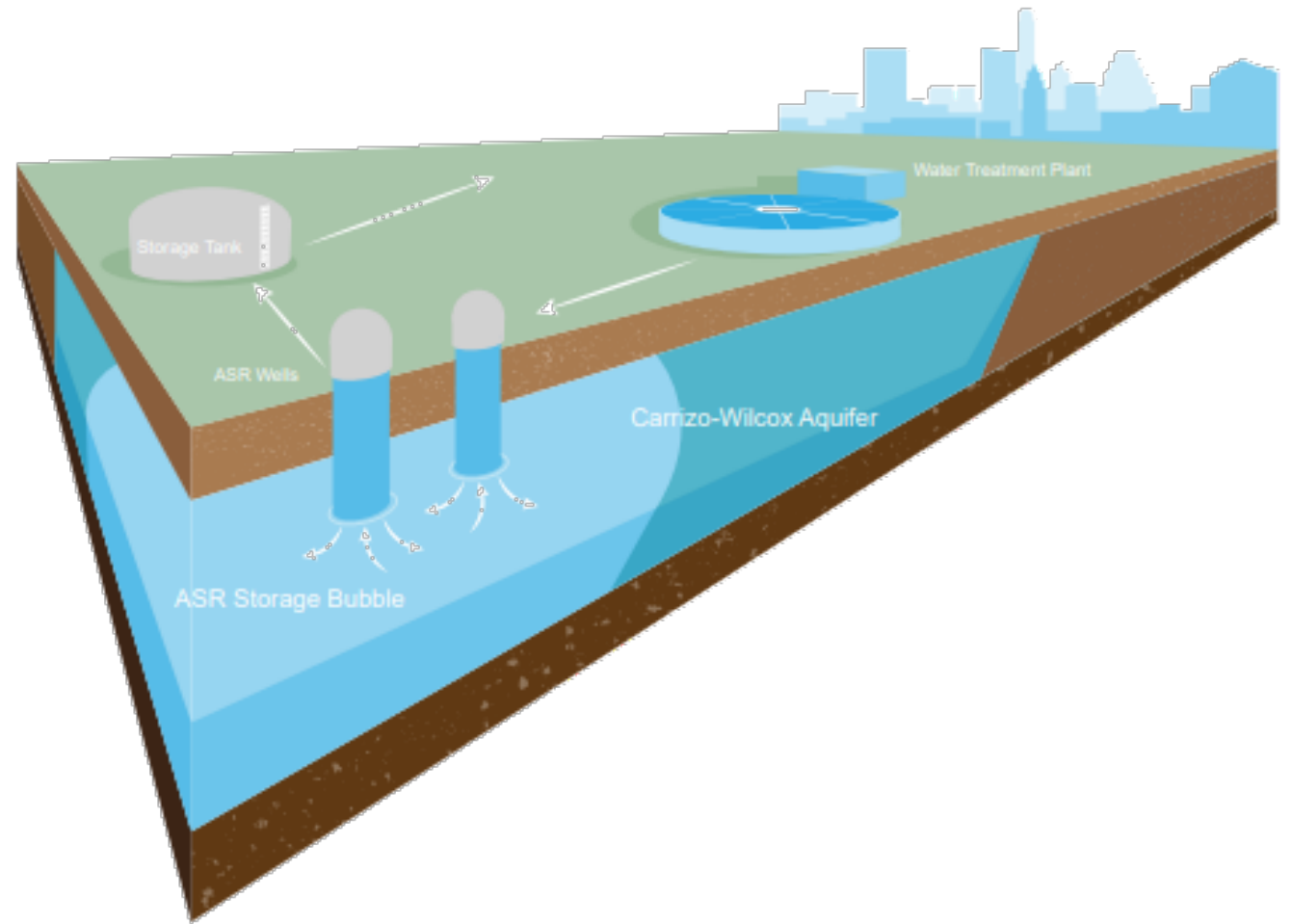
# Protecting our Core Colorado River Supplies

- Region K Initially Prepared Plan moving towards adoption in early Fall 2020



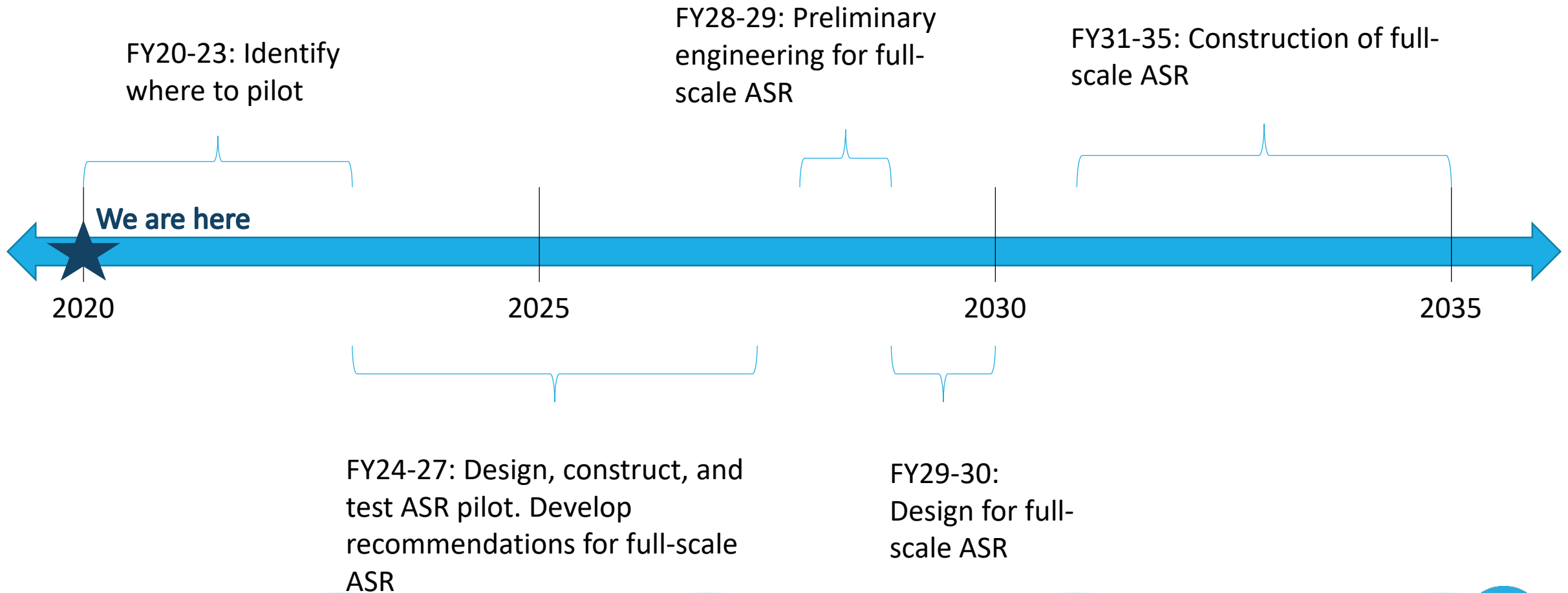
# Aquifer Storage and Recovery

- Austin's ASR project will consist of a pilot and full-scale ASR
- AW in the final phases of procuring a pilot and program management consultant





# Timeline of ASR Implementation



# Questions and Discussion

# **3b. Technical Advisory Group and Task Force Subcommittees Recap**

# Ordinance Subcommittee

- Discussion included update on upcoming code changes (LDC, Onsite Regulatory Program, Incentives, etc.) and conservation rules for wholesale, large volume, and high water use retail customers
- At 8/12 meeting will discuss status of code changes, review demand information, and continue affordability discussion

# Indirect Potable Reuse Subcommittee

- ◆ Subcommittee discussion included recap of Indirect Potable Reuse as a deep drought emergency strategy, timing, and implementation approaches
- ◆ Next steps to include refinement of near term strategy plan
  - Further research and study
  - Adaptive management framework to guide implementation
- ◆ Subcommittee to meet every six months



# ASR TAG

## Denver Water – Overview and ASR Piloting

- Working on a smaller-scale ASR project
- Several steps ahead of Austin in the siting and piloting process
- Performed desktop modeling and drilled cores to get more data to select a pilot site
  - Performed audio modeling for noise effects of drilling
- Currently working to perform pilot and get EPA permitting

# ASR TAG

## Dr. Gretchen Miller – ASR Feasibility Modeling

- Performed a study evaluating the Carrizo-Wilcox and Gulf Coast Aquifers for ASR feasibility
- Used available quantitative data to develop a scoring and weighting methodology to rank locations on their potential for an ASR project
- Also looked at local-scale siting considerations for a separate project

# ASR TAG

## AW Finance Team – ASR Financing Options

- Presented the current AW strategy for ASR funding
- Provided financing option overview
  - TWDB SRF and SWIFT loans
  - Traditional revenue bonds
  - Grants and other potential options

# Questions and Discussion

# 3c. Affordability Discussion



# Guardian Report Analysis

## ♦ Data Used – Circle of Blue

- Data time frame – 2010 through 2018
  - Data collected during significant drought resulting in permanent 25% reduced water demand
  - Ignores more recent trends of reduced rates in 2018 and no rate changes from 2019, 2020, proposed for 2021 and projected for 2022
- Bills calculated at high water use
  - Circle of Blue methodology overpredicts water use for Austin Water
  - Average Austin Water customer uses 5,800 gallons per month with 66.4% under tier 2 of 6,000 gallons

## ♦ Report Focus – Low Income, but No Discussion on Customer Assistance Programs (CAP)

- Austin Water has significant CAP customer bill discounts including fixed fee waivers and volume rate reductions
- Low-income qualifying customers have discounts of 45% compared to residential customers with FY21 Proposed Budget increasing that discount to 51%
- Significant rate reductions for CAP customers in 2018, 2020 and 2021

# Guardian Report Analysis

## ◆ Historical Context

- Austin Water raised rates substantially during the drought of record from 2011 to 2015 as per capita water demand decreased permanently by 25%
- Austin Water shored up finances and provided incentive for conservation to protect water supply

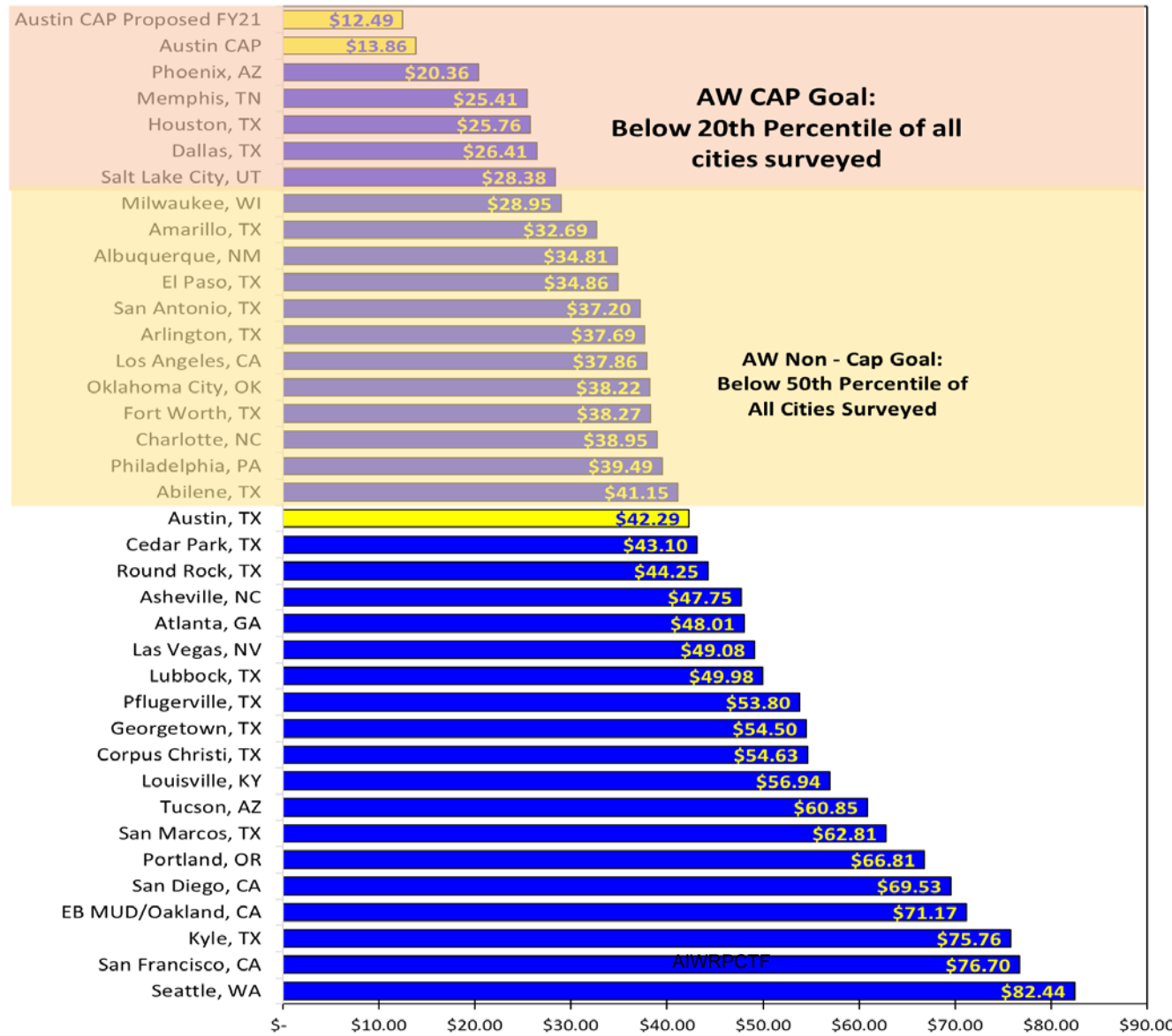
## ◆ Rate Structure – Conservation Incentive

- Austin's rate structure includes strong conservation incentive in tiered fixed fees and volume rates
- Higher volumes pay significantly more as conservation incentive
- 12,000 gallons used in report is in Austin's block 4 which has significantly higher fixed and volume rates to promote conservation

## ◆ Affordability Efforts – Debt Management & Metric Report

- Approval of \$266M in low-interest loans from Texas Water Development Board
- Since 2016, \$200M in debt defeasances resulting in savings over multiple years
- Conducted 2018 Affordability Benchmark Study and update metrics annually

# Affordability Metrics



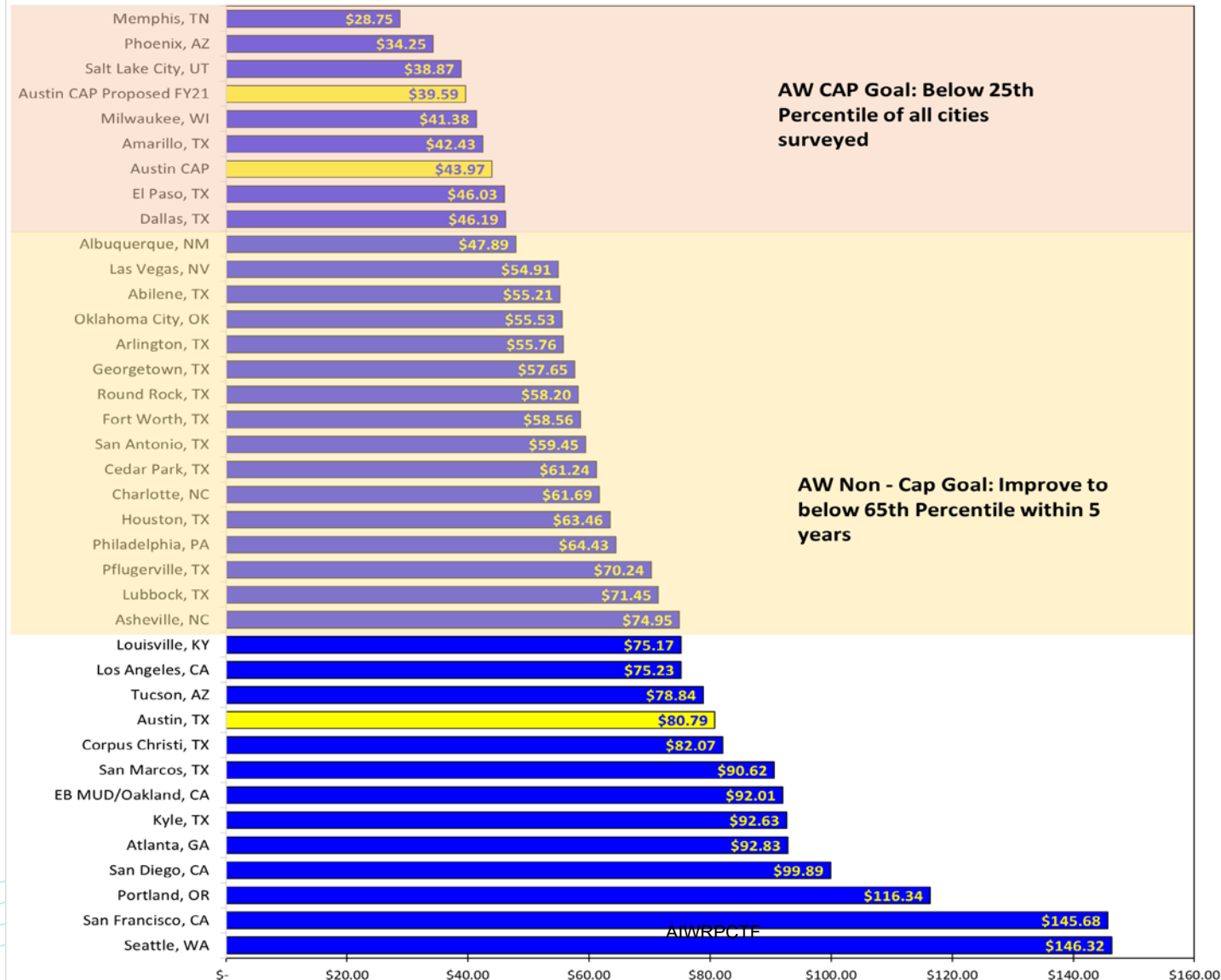
**CAP Customers  
lowest of all cities**

**Average  
Monthly  
Bill Comparison**

**Combined Bill  
Residential  
Low Volume**

**Existing Rates  
3,000 gallons  
water and 2,000  
gallons  
wastewater**

# Affordability Metrics



**FY21 CAP Improved  
Ranking 6<sup>th</sup> ↑ 4<sup>th</sup>.**

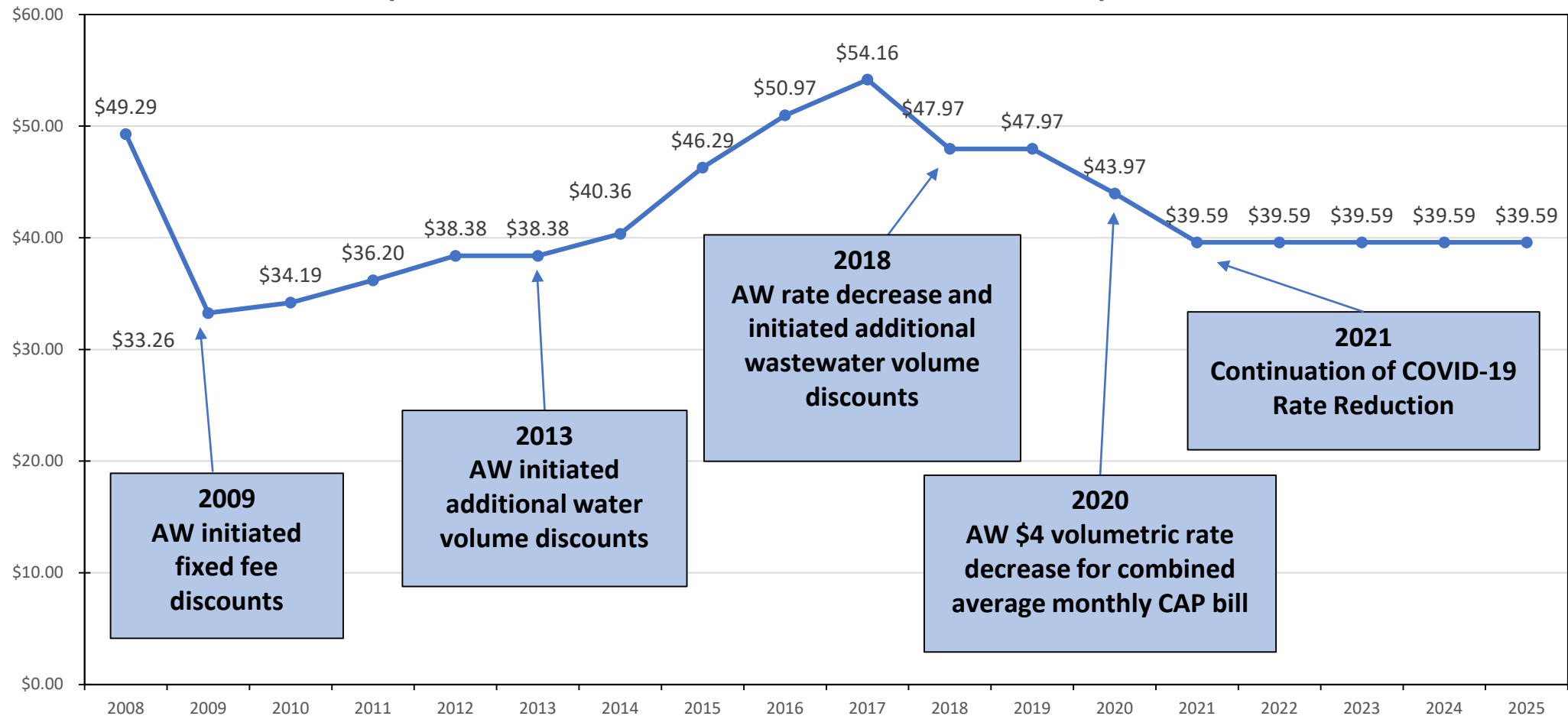
**Average Monthly  
Bill Comparison**

**Combined Bill  
Residential  
Average Volume**

Existing Rates  
5,800 gallons water  
and  
4,000 gallons  
wastewater

# Historical CAP Customer Water and Wastewater Bills

CAP Customer Historical Water and Wastewater Bills  
(5,800 Gals. Water and 4,000 Gals. Wastewater)



# Questions and Discussion