

# ICI Special Process Rebate



## El Lago Tortillas

### Process Water Reuse System

S.G. Mexican Foods, Inc. (El Lago Tortillas) received more than \$3,500 in rebates from Austin Water to install water efficient equipment in its Austin plant. El Lago participated in the Austin Water's Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Special Process Rebate to complete a project that is now conserving an average of 3,558 gallons per day of potable water. El Lago Tortillas developed an idea to install a water conservation process in their plant and worked with Austin Water to be eligible for the rebate.

To achieve the water savings, El Lago installed a water reuse system to reuse the water from the washing and cooking process of the corn used in their products. Their reuse system consists of a series of filters, screens, water separators, pumps and holding tanks. Once the water has been filtered and cleaned, it is reused to steep the corn. The remaining dry cake is used as feed for cattle at nearby farms. The whole process saves water, reduces wastewater, reduces waste going to the landfill, and provides a beneficial product for agriculture.

This project illustrates how a company interested in water conservation, the environment and conscience of their businesses impact on natural resources and the use of water on their bottom line financially can make a difference and receive Austin Water support for doing so.

*"We are proud that our conservation efforts helped make a difference in the community by saving water as well as making a difference for our business plan."*

*- Luis Centeno, El Lago*

El Lago has been making tortillas and chips in Austin since 1967.

For more information please visit our web site, [www.WaterWiseAustin.org](http://www.WaterWiseAustin.org)

- Daily savings of 3,558 gallons
- Annual water and wastewater cost savings of \$18,180
- Investment \$15,041
- Payback period of one year
- Total rebate amount \$3,558

### **Best Management Practice:**

System that reuses the water from the washing and cooking process of the corn used in the making of tortillas. The reuse system consists of a series of filters, screens, water separators, pumps and holding tanks.

Case Study



Austin  
**WATER**  
Clearly Reliable