

On the WATER Front

A Message from Ed Archuleta, P.E., President/CEO



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El Paso Has An Ample Water Supply

If you're keeping up with the news, you know that many Texas cities are battling drought conditions. U.S. Department of Agriculture data show extreme or exceptional drought conditions in 77 of our 254 counties.

Public water systems in the Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio areas are among 230 that implemented mandatory water restrictions. Another 60 are asking for voluntary reductions in water use. Texas has been described as the nation's most drought-stricken state.

These conditions were caused by high temperatures and minimal rainfall. By the last week in July, the San Antonio-Austin area was reporting 36 days of temperatures 100 degrees or higher. In a typical year, that number would have been 12.

El Paso is also experiencing a hot summer, which is not unexpected in this desert locale. But while drought restrictions are in full force in many Texas cities, El Paso has an ample water supply. Our water resource management plan ensures that businesses and residents enjoy high-quality water. We've identified the resources to serve you for 50 years or more.

Securing Our Water Resources

Using Best Management Practices, designated watering days and times have been in effect since 1991. As a result, conservation has become a way of life in El Paso. We also tap multiple sources of water: fresh and brackish groundwater from the aquifers, surface water from the Rio Grande, and reclaimed water - highly treated water from our wastewater treatment plants. This drought-proof resource is used for purposes such as irrigation or industrial use where drinking-quality water is not required.

Changes in climate can affect water resources. For example, river water supplies can be limited by drought conditions. But when our allocation of river water is reduced, we pump more water from the aquifers. This conjunctive-use management of our resources ensures sufficient supplies under a wide range of climatic conditions.

Recent studies show that our planning has prepared us for any variations in climate. Our long-term solutions ensure that you'll receive world-class service for decades to come.



Rio Grande

On the Water Front is a publication of El Paso Water Utilities. If you have any comments or questions contact Editor Christina Montoya at 915.594.5596 or by email at cmontoya@epwu.org

