

On the WATER Front

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

January 2009



El Pasoans Continue to Conserve Water

Congratulations are in order! El Pasoans have once again played a part in our successful water conservation program. Daily water use in El Paso dropped to 133 gallons per person in 2008, down from 134 gallons in 2007. One gallon per person per day may not seem like a lot, but when you multiply that by the amount of customers in El Paso, that's a lot of water.

A lot of credit also goes to the Public Service Board for their forward thinking and long-term planning. In 1991 when the average daily water use per person was 200 gallons, El Paso Water Utilities staff began educating the public on the importance of conserving this precious resource. Through education, watering restrictions, and incentives, water consumption has dropped 33 percent.

This not only ensures a long-term, cost-effective water supply for the El Paso community, but it also reduces flows into our wastewater treatment plants. This allows the PSB to postpone plant expansions and saves rate payers millions of dollars in capital and financing costs. Conservation also reduces pumping in the Hueco Bolson aquifer - a major source of supply for the city. El Paso is pumping at quantities last seen in the late 1960s despite steady population growth. Another advantage to conservation is it saves energy to pump and treat the water, as well as reduces expensive chemical costs.

The reduced water consumption is something El Pasoans should be proud of. Their efforts, combined with the expertise of the Public Service Board, make our city stand apart from the rest.

EPWU is known throughout the country for its successful water conservation program and is an excellent example of Best Management Practices. The Utility's goal is to maintain reductions in water use through education and advances in technology for years to come.



Xeriscaping



Programs



Education



Conserving

