



10-4-88

4

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

WATER DIVISION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
RECEIVED

SEP 28 1988

1391-35TH AVENUE
SACRAMENTO, CA
95822-2911

916-449-5271

October 4, 1988

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

Subject: **STATUS REPORT FOR THE WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM -
AUGUST, 1988**

SUMMARY

As directed by the City Council, staff is presenting the August informational report on the status of the City's water conservation program. Water conservation measures during the month of August effected an estimated 13 percent reduction in water use. Conservation efforts during the past three months have resulted in an overall summer reduction of 12 percent.

BACKGROUND

Water conservation programs were launched in early June encouraging residents and businesses to follow water saving practices. The goal for 1988 was to achieve at least a 10 percent savings in water usage. Previous status reports to the City Council have indicated water savings of 15 and 8 percent for June and July respectively. Water conservation programs by the City of Sacramento and the Sacramento Area Waterworks Association continued throughout the summer.

In the July/August utility bills, a brochure on efficient lawn watering techniques was mailed to all utility customers.

The three (3) Water Waste Inspectors made 1,328 contacts with homeowners and businesses, including 326 contacts made in response to telephone calls. The Water Division distributed 417 water conservation kits in response to requests by customers. A total of 2059 kits were distributed during the past three months.

In addition, a 30 second public service video stressing the importance of water conservation was purchased and three copies made available to local television stations through the City Public Information Officer.

The Sacramento Area Waterworks Association continued its public information program. A report (Attachment A) by their conservation committee is attached.

The combined water conservation effort during this past summer resulted in an overall estimated city water saving of 12 percent. As can be seen on Attachment B, the summer usage (i.e. June, July, and August) was definitely decreased compared to past summer usage. The residents of the City have responded in a very positive way to our request to conserve water.

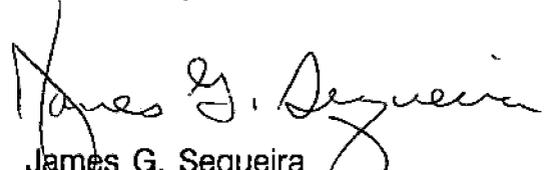
FINANCIAL

This report has no financial impact.

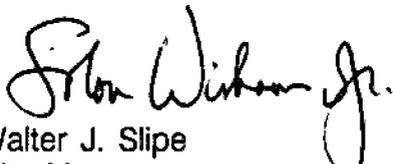
RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

Respectfully submitted,


James G. Sequeira
Water Division Manager

APPROVED FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION:


Walter J. Slipe
City Manager

APPROVED:


Melvin H. Johnson
Director of Public Works

October 4, 1988
All Districts

w/attachments

3009 F Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
□ (916) 442-4684

**Sacramento Area
Water Works Assn.**
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE



For more information,
contact Mary Breitlow

September 6, 1988

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEMS SAVE WATER AND
STAMP OUT WATERING BLUES

Summertime watering blues are rampant among weary homeowners, following the dog days of July and August, '88, says the Sacramento Area Water Works Association, but cooler fall days are a perfect time to install a water-saving drip irrigation system that will rid them of the malady for years to come and produce healthier gardens.

SAWWA, an association of about 30 water utilities, maintains the many benefits of a drip system should lure homeowners to take a closer look, especially if they plan to overhaul a sprinkler system or relandscape.

Accomplished with very low pressure over a long period of time, drip systems provide excellent water penetration without water waste. All the water is supplied to the roots, where it will do the most good, not lost to evaporation, splattered on sidewalks, or wasted watering bare-ground areas.

Estimates vary, but SAWWA contends drip systems use 20-60% less water than a traditional sprinkler system. Gardeners use less water, but enjoy more beautiful flower displays and reap greater yields from vegetable gardens since drip systems alleviate plant stress, adds SAWWA.

Sprinklers are far less efficient than a drip system, SAWWA explains, because sprinklers cause puddling, which in extreme cases, will keep the soil too moist, depriving plants of oxygen and drowning good things in the soil, such as earthworms. On the other hand, plants suffer from heat stress when gardeners use sprinklers sporadically, continues SAWWA. In short,

more-more

4

SAWWA/"Drip Irrigation Systems..."
September 6, 1988
2/2/2/2

gardeners get better results with a drip system because water application is controlled and consistent.

SAWWA lists still other drip system advantages:

- * The system can be tailored to meet the needs of different plants and altered quickly if you change your garden format.
- * Watering becomes automatic if you hook up the system to a timer.
- * Weed growth is discouraged because you water root systems of garden plants, not all the surrounding areas.
- * Since many systems have fertilizer receptacles, you can nourish plants as you water.
- * Because there is no overhead spray, you can work in your garden while it is being watered.
- * You can water on windy days without losing a single drop.
- * Maintenance is easy, usually requiring only periodic inspection of lines and filters and occasional flushing of the system.

"One of the most effective ways to save water outdoors is to match your watering system to your soil and plant needs," states Linda Johnson, chairwoman of SAWWA's conservation committee. "The biggest portion of summer water waste occurs outdoors. Drip systems conserve water that can be used for other purposes and actually produce better gardens, with less effort, when set up properly. That's the best part because everybody wins."

Installation of a drip system will require a little time in the beginning, since it needs to be planned right for best results. Drip irrigation should be used for flower beds, vegetable gardens, ornamental or fruit trees, shrubs, vines, and outdoor planters.

more-more

SAWWA/"Drip Irrigation Systems..."
September 6, 1988
3/3/3/3

There are three basic types of drip systems: emitter, drip tube or tape, and soaker hose. Your drip system may use all three types if you plan to water everything planted in your yard.

First, make a diagram of your property. Draw in the house, garage, driveways, walkways, etc. Locate and label planted areas in detail and mark the water source you plan to use. Bring your diagram to your local nursery, garden supply outlet, or hardware store for assistance with plans, component selection, and installation. Many drip suppliers have literature detailing available components and instructions for your review.

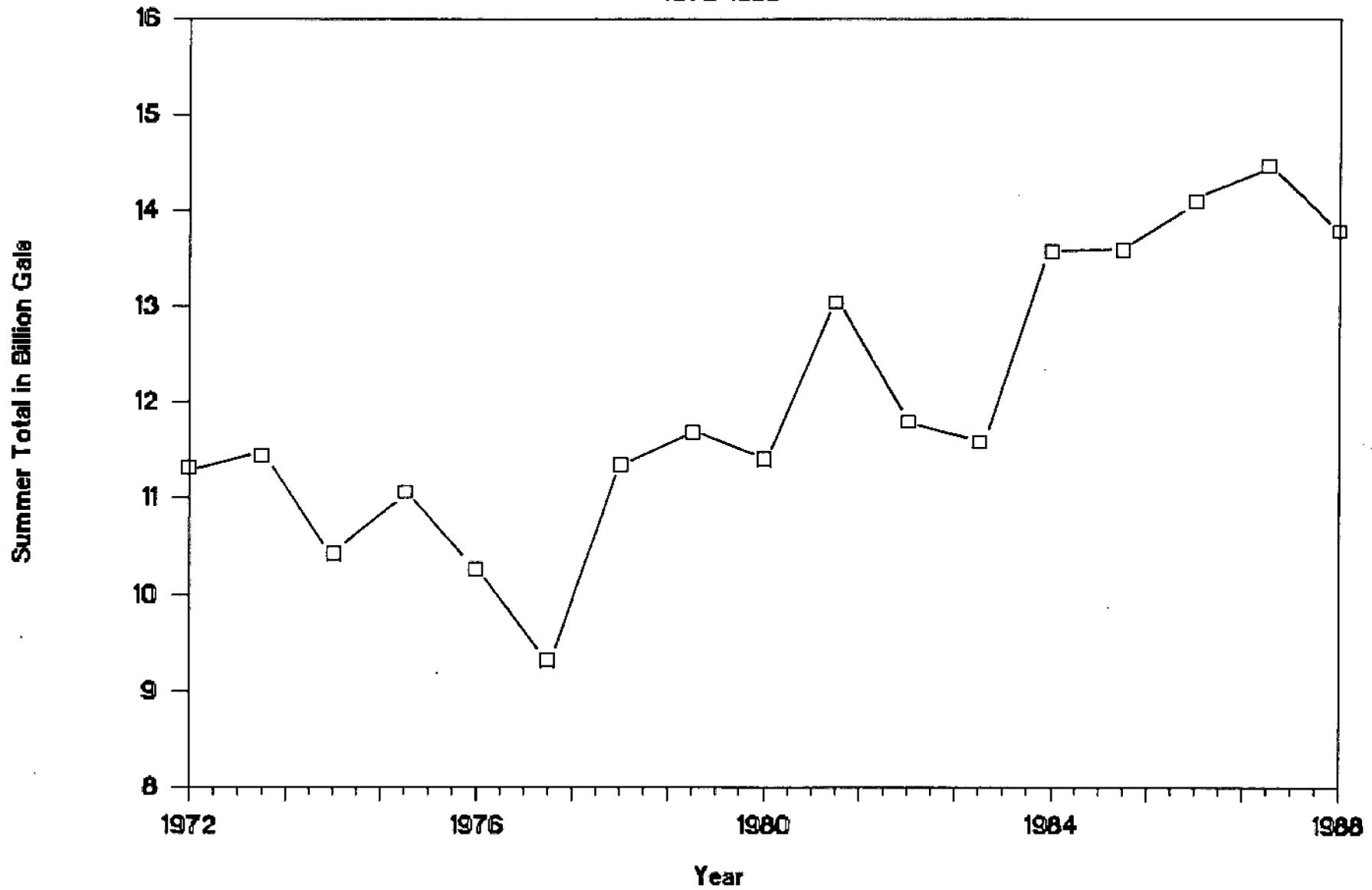
When a drip system is well-designed and made of quality filters and parts, SAWWA says it should last for many years with little trouble.

SAWWA believes you have better things to do in your spare summer time than water the yard and urges you to get started on a drip system plan soon.

#####

HISTORICAL SUMMER WATER USAGE

1972-1988



ATTACHMENT B

4