CAP Benchmarking:
Brackish Groundwater Desalination Program

Robert Sheldon
Chairman – Citizens Advisory Panel

SAWS Board of Trustees
July 2, 2019
Citizens Advisory Panel

• The Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) was created in 1998 to provide input to the Board of Trustees and staff on water resource planning, policies, and project development activities.

• The CAP recognizes the importance of SAWS Mission Statement:
  – Sustainable
  – Affordable
  – Water Services
2019 CAP Members

Robert Sheldon, Fellow PRSA, Chair
Javier Garcia, P.E., Vice Chair

Carolyn Beverly
Rachel Cywinski
Steven Dean, P.E.
Mayor Suzanne de Leon
Mayor Mary M. Dennis
Yongli Gao, Ph.D.
Steven Garcia

Cullen Jones
Melinda Lechuga
Anita Ledbetter
Monika Maeckle
Gloria S. Martinez
Yulanee McKnight
Denise Ojeda

William Ramos, II
Garland Scott, P.E.
Matthew Scott
Mitchell Sowards
Carla Walker
Mayor Robert B. Werner
Providing Input to the Board

Benchmarking Process

• Charged to “provide input to the Board regarding major water resource policies, plans and projects.”

• Input provided through the benchmarking process
  – Involves a list of questions that serve as the evaluation criteria
    • Questions were revised in 2010
  – Responses to the questions forms the basis of the CAP’s recommendations
  – CAP presents recommendations to the Board
CAP Benchmarking

Brackish Groundwater Desalination Program (BGD)

• Consisted of reviewing BGD Water Supply

• Benchmarking conducted: February – June
  – Presentation on the Project history, construction, cost, and operational experience
  – Discussion at the monthly meetings
  – Review and editing of draft benchmarking documents
  – Subcommittee meetings
    • Six CAP members participated
  – Email communications
CAP Benchmarking

Project Area Map
Discussion Item #1

Diversification

• A firm supply of groundwater produced from the Wilcox Aquifer in south Bexar County

• Planned Yield: 11,200 acre-feet per year

• Reduced reliance on Edwards Aquifer
Water Supply Portfolio

Diverse Water Sources

- San Antonio has made great strides in water management over the past decade
- Diverse supplies now and for the future
Discussion Item #2

Regionalism

• Wilcox Aquifer previously unused
  – Due to depth and salinity
• Proximity to San Antonio
• Full production yield fully supported
• Communication with the Evergreen UWCD
Discussion Item #3

Operational Flexibility

• Ability to meet demand
  – West and/or East portions of service area

• Future ability to deliver water to high growth areas of NW San Antonio

• Additional phases to meet SAWS future demands
Plant Tour
CAP and CCC – November 2016
Conclusions

• The Brackish Groundwater Desalination Program adds to our continuing efforts to ensure water supplies for a thriving greater San Antonio region

• The BGD Program has been a successful addition to SAWS diversified water resource portfolio

• The CAP recommends SAWS continue to monitor the recharge rate in the Lower WilcoxC aquifer
  – Needs to be more fully researched and understood
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