

2005
Car Care
 WORLD EXPO

Partnering with Water Purveyors or How to Keep Your Car Wash Open During Drought Restrictions

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Please silence all cell phone pagers at this time. Thank you.

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Choices to Make

- Begin working with regulators when you leave the Expo
- Get frantic when a drought threatens to close your car wash
 - The San Antonio, Denver, Mid-Atlantic, etc. choice









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Why I Decided to Cooperate and Lead

- In 1996, San Antonio was in the midst of a major drought and had been informed by the Courts and the State Legislative that we could not use as much water as we needed from the Edwards Aquifer
- In panic, the Water System and City were looking for ways to reduce water use. The first target was going to be car washes



- This being a victim is unacceptable!
- It is my City too and to protect my business the City must address its water challenge
- There is no solution in doing battle
- I must participate in the process



Considerations

- A prosperous City with enough water to meet its needs is good for business
- There are huge opportunities to save water in a typical community—almost all of them more effective than shutting down car washes
- Water purveyors are looking for help in meeting the Community's water needs
- The water purveyor has water conservation goals (or at least should have them) that can be addressed by many alternatives



Ways to Participate



- 1) Advisory Committees—Community Conservation Committee (CCC) in San Antonio
- 2) Water System Boards
- 3) City Councils
- 4) Media
- 5) One to one with water system officials



Ways to Influence—Do your Homework

- Know the characteristics of your industry
 - (how many car washes—how much water they use)
- Know what other water use options use
 - Be positive, do not create enemies
- Lost Water, 25% in some communities
 - Rain Sensors, 10,000 gallons/system
 - High-Flow Toilets, 11,000 gallons/toilet
- Know what the Water Conservation goals are and contribute potential solutions



Ways to Influence -Second Tier

- Make alliances with other industries to insure that everyone shares in the solution
- Play the “economic card,” no need to eliminate jobs to save water
- Be willing to do your part—Car Wash Certification
- Meter fee on all Commercial Meters for Conservation



Situation in San Antonio



Car Wash Certification Requirements

Conveyer/Full Service

- Automatic high-level water cut-offs in all towel and chamois washing machines
- A minimum of 50% must be recycled and used in subsequent washing phase

In-Bay Automatic

- All chamois wringer sinks must have positive shut off valves
- At least a 5-second dwell time before exiting the bay
- Maximum of 45 gallons per basic wash



Car Wash Certification Requirements (cont.)

Self Serve

- All chamois wringer sinks must have positive shut off valves
- All high-pressure wash nozzles and pump systems calibrated to no greater than 3 gallons per minute

All Participants

- All toilets utilized at a facility MUST be replaced with 1.6 gallon type toilets
- All hoses or faucets in use MUST be attended or shut off
- All driveways should be cleaned by sweeping
- All spot-free reverse osmosis concentrate (if any used) MUST be reused in the wash water holding tank



Situation in San Antonio

- Meter Fee for Conservation on all Commercial Meters
- \$.09/100 gallons to Conservation from 4th tier (highest) residential users
- A Car Wash entrepreneur is the Chairman of the Community Conservation Committee



Situation in San Antonio

- Year around Water Conservation Ordinance passed City Council unanimously, Jan 20th, with no one speaking against the Ordinance. It will save 4,000 acre ft per year. Enough water for 16,000 new homes.
- Who will be affected—Car Washes, New Home Builders, Restaurants, Power Washes, Homeowners, Schools, Cooling Towers, Irrigators, Landscapers and many others



Situation in San Antonio

The Future –
seeking a wastewater credit
for certified car washes




Resources

- www.carcarecentral.com >Business Tools >Government>Environment
 - [Water Conservation in the Professional Car Wash Industry Report](#) (PDF file*) - commissioned by the International Carwash Association on behalf of water regulators and the car care industry, this report was written by Chris Brown, a respected water conservation consultant and former regulator. Prompted by water use restrictions imposed in the eastern United States in the summer of 1999, the report summarizes the existing state of reclaim and water conservation technology in the car care industry.
 - [Water Use in the Professional Car Wash Industry](#) (PDF file*)
 - [Water Effluent & Solid Waste Characteristics in the Professional Car Wash Industry](#) (PDF file*)
- Regional Associations





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The End ...Questions?





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