El Paso’s Diversified Water Resources Portfolio

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Government Affairs Manager
The PSB sets policy, adopts fiscal budgets ($266 million for FY2014), rates and fees, and approves an annual strategic plan for 4 utilities:

- Water
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Reclaimed Water

EPWU provides water service to 95 percent of El Paso County (800,000+ residents)
Water Utilities Role

- Continue to restructure and consider strategic, political, and regional issues
- Need to improve on ways to achieve greater consumer confidence
- Communication and public involvement programs have become a bigger part of overall budget(s)
- Diversification of water and energy resources is an essential planning objective
- Need to capitalize on technology
EPWU Provides Water Service to Outlying Areas & Assists in Managing Projects
Land Management

PSB owns the following for water rights:

- 25,000 acres in El Paso County
- 75,000 acres outside El Paso County (Texas)
- 880 acres in New Mexico
El Paso’s Diversified Resources


- Surface Water
- Reclaimed Water
- Conservation
- Groundwater
- Desalination
- Importation
EPWU Challenges

- Drought
- Growth
- $800 million in capital improvement needs over the next 10 years
- Financial Obligations
- Energy
- Personnel – succession planning
Recent Drought Situation

- EPWU received reduced river water allocation
  - 6,500 AF compared to usual 70,000 AF

(The lowest release since the inception of the project in 1906)
Managing Drought

- Increased Conservation & Desalination
- Surface Water Strategies
- Reclaimed Water
- Groundwater Strategies
- Emergency Management Rule
Only 3 of the past 16 years has runoff into Elephant Butte been above average.
2013-2014 Projects to Enhance Groundwater Delivery

- Implementation of water main projects to carry groundwater to central and downtown areas that heavily rely on river water
- New Wells (8 wells/2013 & 9 wells/2014)
- Potable reuse planning
Population

- Ending in 2013, Fort Bliss realized an increase of over 28,000 active duty personnel (30,000 additional family members) - the largest net gain from any military installation in America.

- The estimated population within the El Paso region is expected to more than double within the next 20 years.
Energy
Energy Needs

- EPWU has joined staff of Federal lawmakers to identify and promote greater energy efficiencies (energy/water nexus).
  - Resource recovery
- EPWU’s Energy needs to operate facilities continue to increase.
  - Total energy costs approximately $14 million/year.
Conservation
Water Conservation Efforts

- 1991 – Water Conservation Ordinance
- Block Rate Structure
- Incentives/Rebates
- Education
Peak Water Demand

Million Gallons

Calendar Year
Per Capita Consumption

Goal for 2020 – 130 gpcd

Calendar Year

2013 – 130 gpcd
**Water/Wastewater Regional Survey**

**October 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Sewer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe (County)</td>
<td>$112.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruidoso</td>
<td>$34.53</td>
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<td>Tucson</td>
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<td>Lubbock</td>
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<td>Alamogordo</td>
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<td>Lower Valley Water District</td>
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<td>Albuquerque</td>
<td>$39.09</td>
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<td>Las Cruces</td>
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<td>$19.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>$25.61</td>
<td>$17.83</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL**

- Santa Fe (County): $142.26
- Ruidoso: $107.45
- Tucson: $81.85
- Lubbock: $89.05
- Alamogordo: $53.36
- Lower Valley Water District: $56.60
- Albuquerque: $62.46
- Las Cruces: $43.44
- El Paso: $42.93

* 13 CCF for Water, 9 CCF AWC and 9 CCF for Sewer
CHIWAWA
Consortium for Hi-Technology Investigations in Water and Wastewater

- EPWU, UTEP, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center, NMSU, City of Alamogordo
- Promote research and training programs in salinity management, inland desalination technology, concentrate disposal, and water resources management
- Goal: development of new technologies and processes to develop reliable and sustainable sources of water
Going Forward
Potential Successes from Regional Planning Efforts

- Developing & updating a regional plan to identify and implement regional long-term solutions for how water is managed could result in:
  
  - Development of a regional water conservation program(s)
  - Implementation of varied planning strategies
  - Obtaining long-term financing
  - Expanding research opportunities
  - Educating customers about the value of water
State Assistance and Participation

- Ensure TWDB expedites funding from Prop 6
- Streamline permitting for desalination projects
- Support expanding research in water projects
- Establish a Center of Excellence (as previously suggested) for training & education
- Promote innovation and development/expansion of energy sources and municipal water resources, i.e., direct potable reuse
Conclusion

- Increased communication/cooperation between regional entities is vital (regional planning efforts must continue)
- Private sector involvement should be encouraged
- Innovation is key for addressing efficiencies and challenges
- State and/or Federal funding for development of regional projects must be made available & promoted
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