



# Water Use Efficiency: Update on the Implementation of the Municipal Water Law Requirements

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee  
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Mike Means and Mike Dexel, Office of Drinking Water

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND  
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY



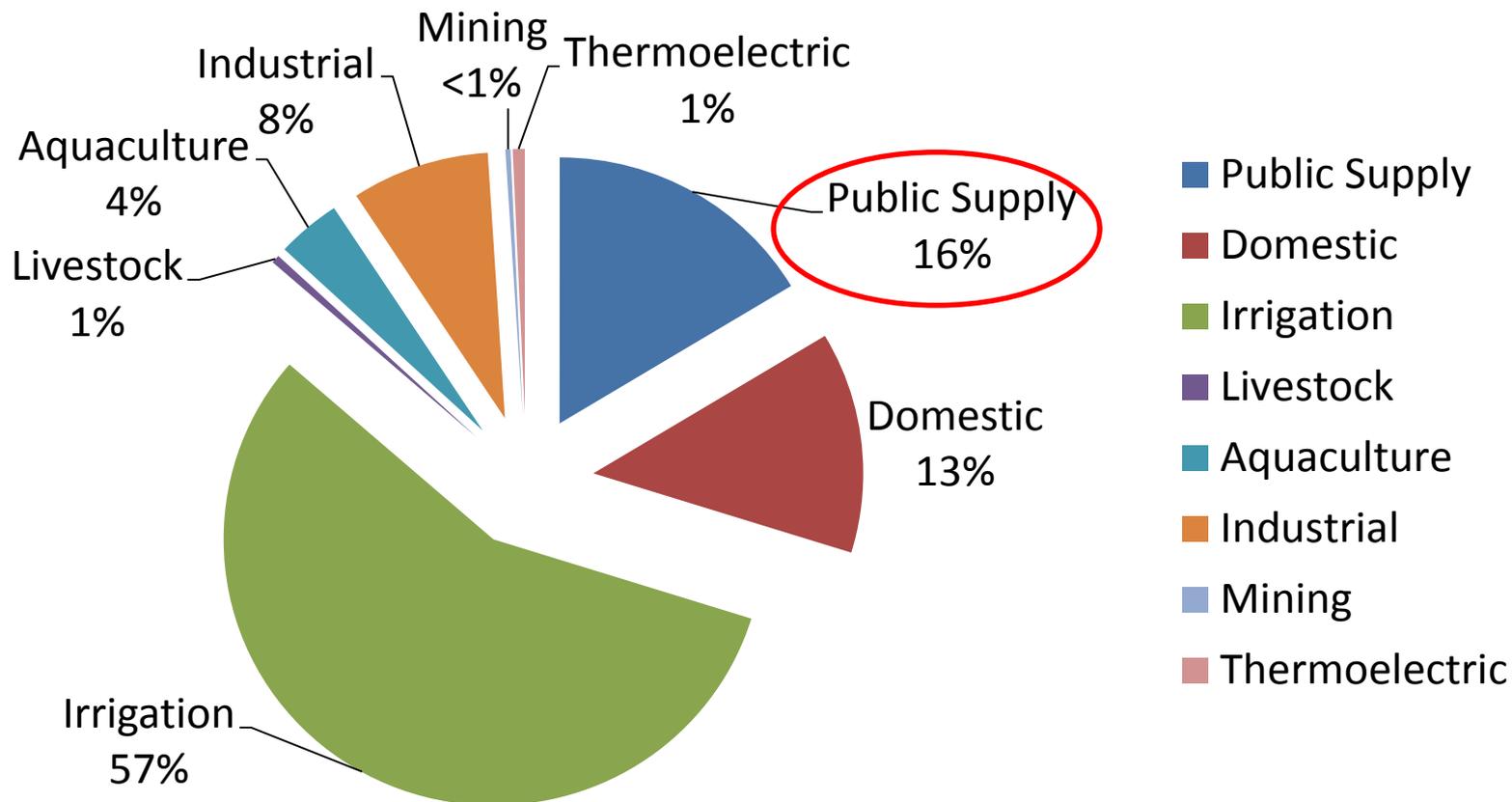
# Overview of Presentation

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- Legislative directive on water use efficiency (WUE).
- What the Department of Health (DOH) has done to implement the law.
- Partners' efforts and results.
- WUE results and benefits.
- DOH's role in providing assistance

*It's Worth  
Saving*   
*Drinking Water*

# U.S. Geological Survey Estimated Freshwater Withdrawals in Washington State - 2010



# Municipal Water Law— Historical Background

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- Municipal water law enacted in 2003
  - Defined certain water rights as municipal water for supply purposes and defined municipal water suppliers.
- Flexibility in using municipal water rights to serve growing communities.
- Created additional water efficiency requirements for municipal sector.



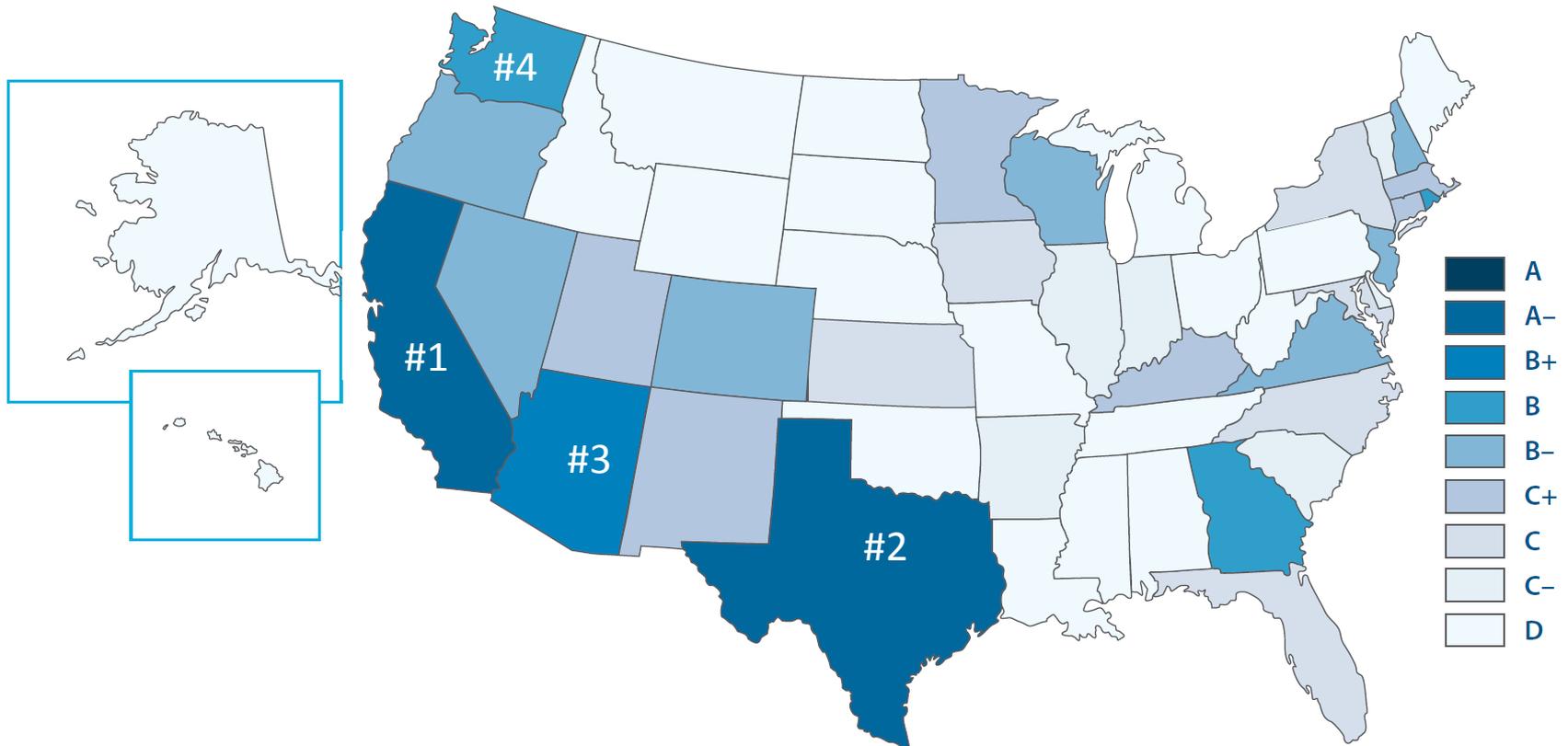
# WUE Rule Requirements

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- Supply and demand side WUE required.
- Ten percent leak standard.
- Customer goal setting required through a public process.
- Service meters required by January 22, 2017.
- Planning required.
- Annual reporting required.

# Washington State Ranked Fourth in Nation - 2012

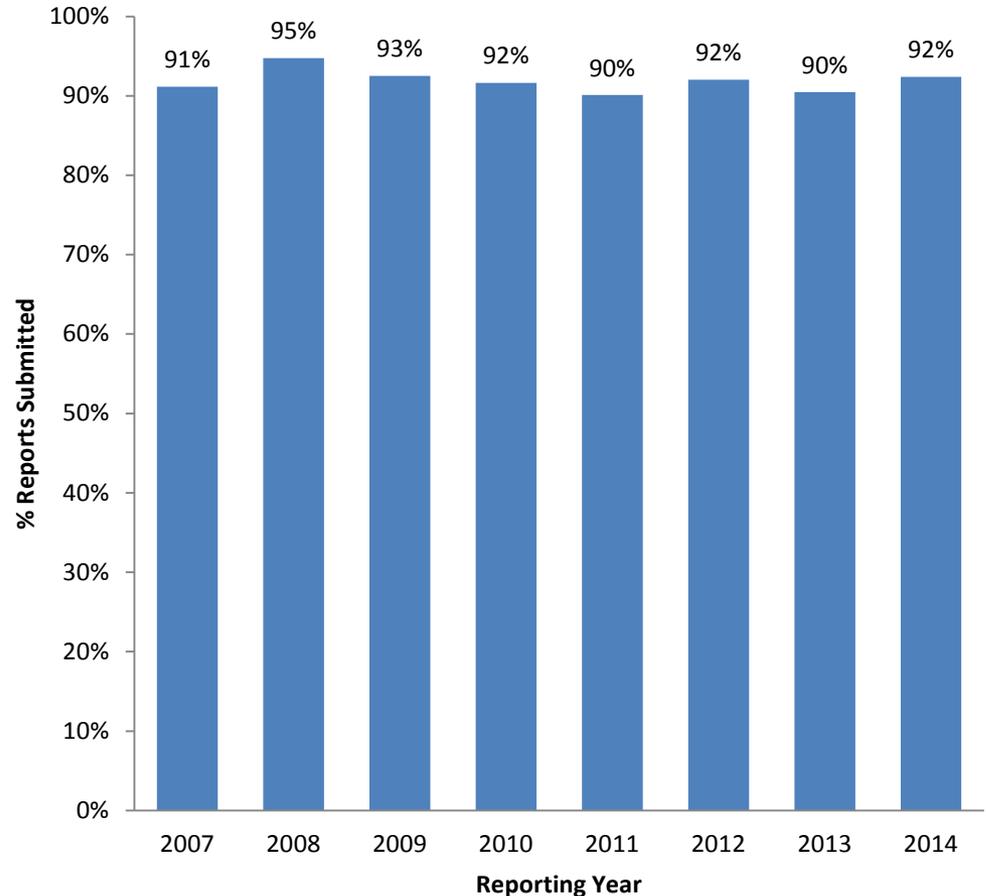
Alliance for Water Efficiency State Scorecard:  
Assessment of Laws and Policies, National Grade = C



# WUE Water System Reporting Rates

For each of the past eight years, over 90 percent of water systems have submitted metered data and general WUE data.

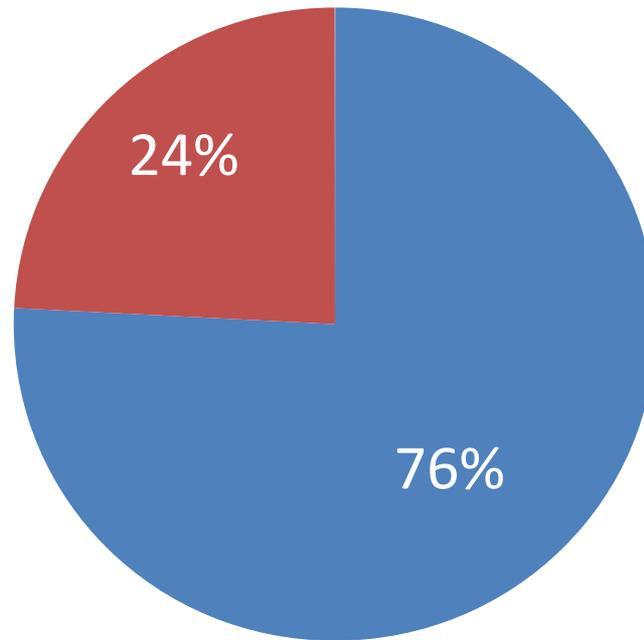
- Over 2,100 water systems required to submit annual report.



# Conservation by Municipal Customers

## WUE Customer Goals to Promote Conservation

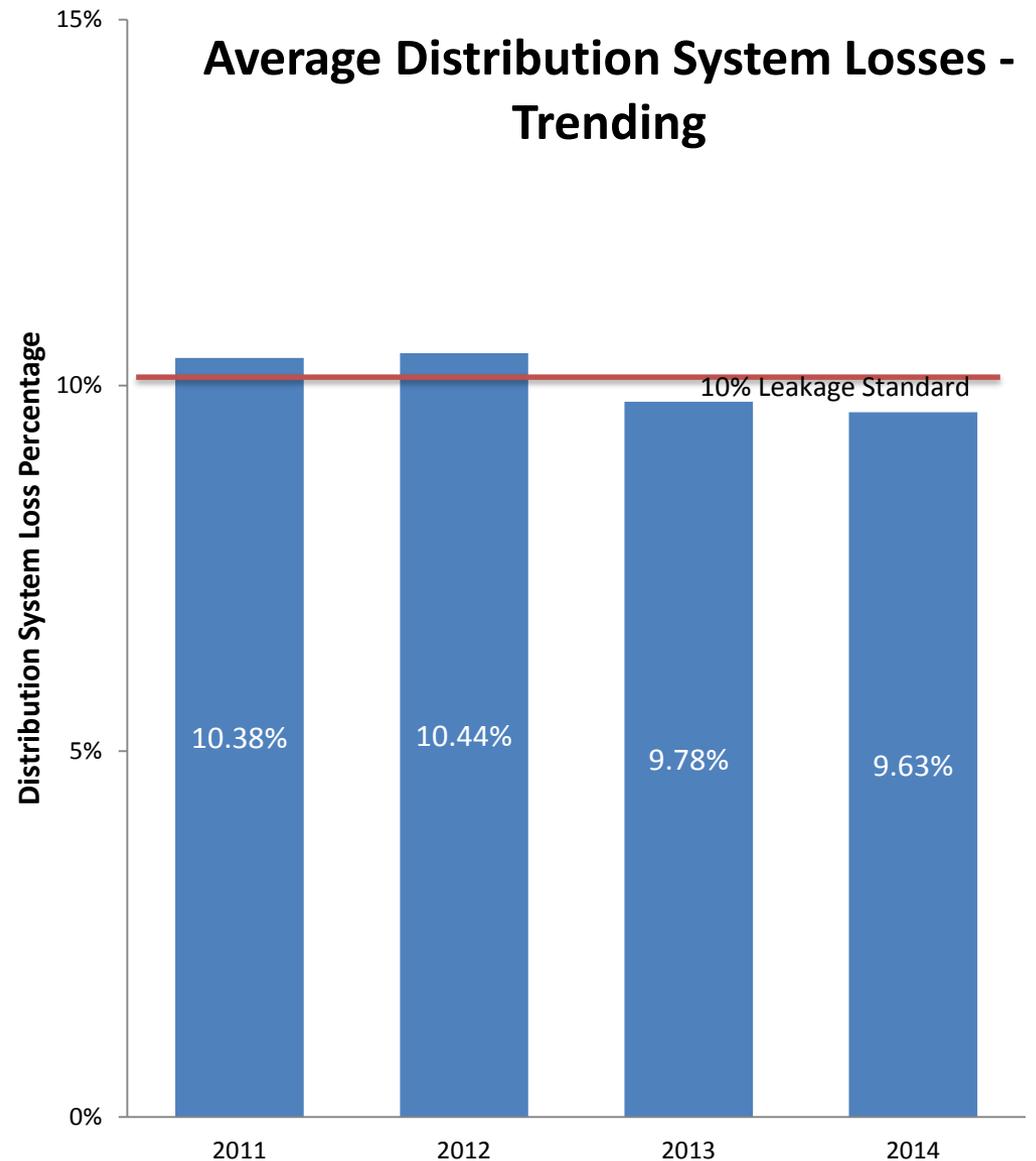
■ Water Reduction Target Identified    ■ No Target Identified



\*Based on analysis of 2014 annual WUE reports

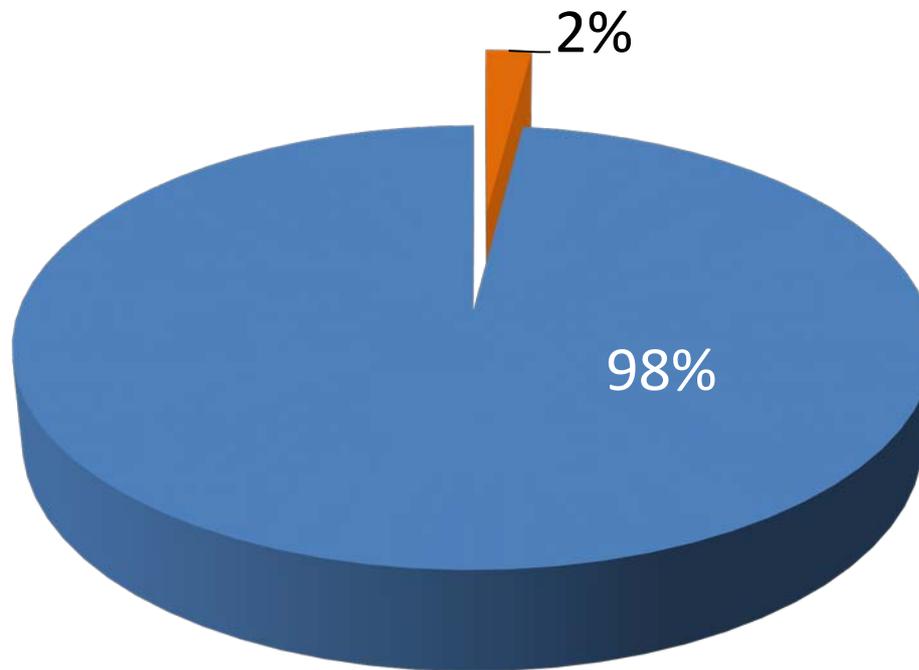
# Statewide Average Water System Losses - Trends

Leakage trends reflect water systems that are 100 percent metered.



# Percentage of Systems Reporting Annual Source Meter Data

Average Percentage from 2011 to 2014



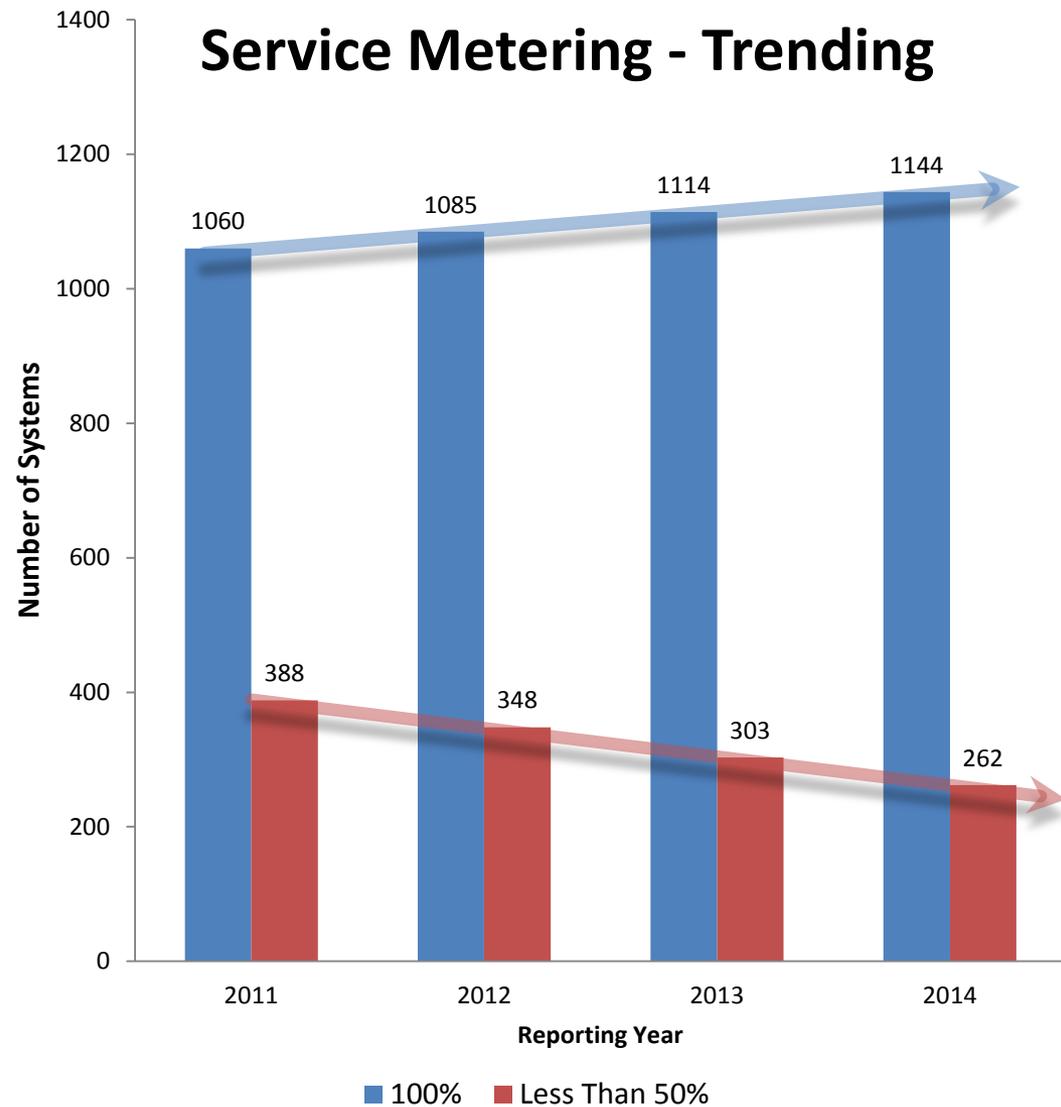
\*Nearly all water withdrawn for municipal use is metered and reported each year.

- Not Reporting
- Reporting

# Service Metering - Trends

This figure shows data for systems required to install service meters by 2017 **AND** have reported data for each year since 2011.

Approximately eight percent of water systems exempt from service metering (such as RV and mobile home parks, and campgrounds).





# Lakeview Park Water Association

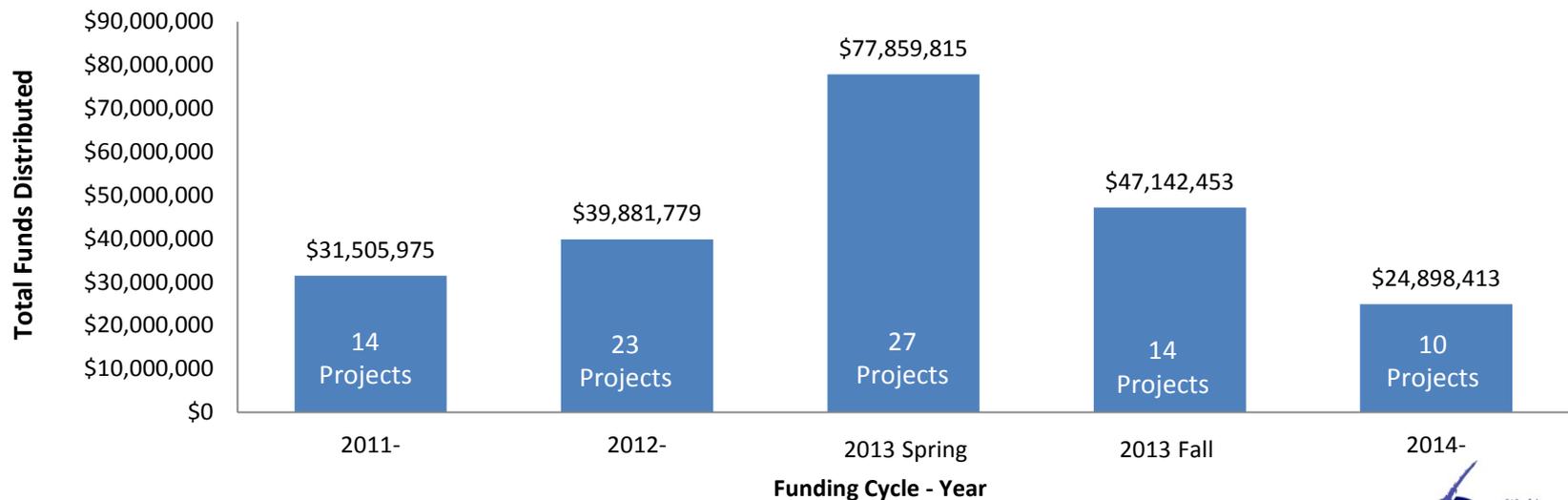
- Private home owners' association in Grant County
- About 400 connections
- Seven inches of annual rainfall
- Source: Three wells
- Area where declining groundwater levels are of concern

- *Problem:* Running out of storage capacity, known leaks in system.
- *Solution:* Meter Installation and purchase leak detector.
- *Result:* Found 24 major leaks on residential lines.
- Reduced water loss by 11 percent (21 million gallons) in one year.
- New consumption based rate structure.
- *Goal:* Reduce summer demand by ten percent in six years.

# What We're Doing To Help

- Technical assistance, guidance products.
- Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) used for leak management control (for example, replacing pipes and storage tanks).

## DWSRF Infrastructure Improvement Projects



# Summary

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- Working with stakeholders, DOH designed a practical WUE program emphasizing accountability and ensuring compliance with the Municipal Water Law requirements.
- Our guidance and technical assistance to help water systems understand the requirements has paid off.
- Water systems have overwhelmingly met the challenge and achieved impressive results in terms of water savings.
- Water use efficiency is about more than just water savings, it's also about saving energy and money.
- DOH is committed to helping the remaining systems get into compliance.

# For Additional Information Contact

Mike Dixel

Water Use Efficiency State Program Lead

[michael.dixel@doh.wa.gov](mailto:michael.dixel@doh.wa.gov)

360-236-3154