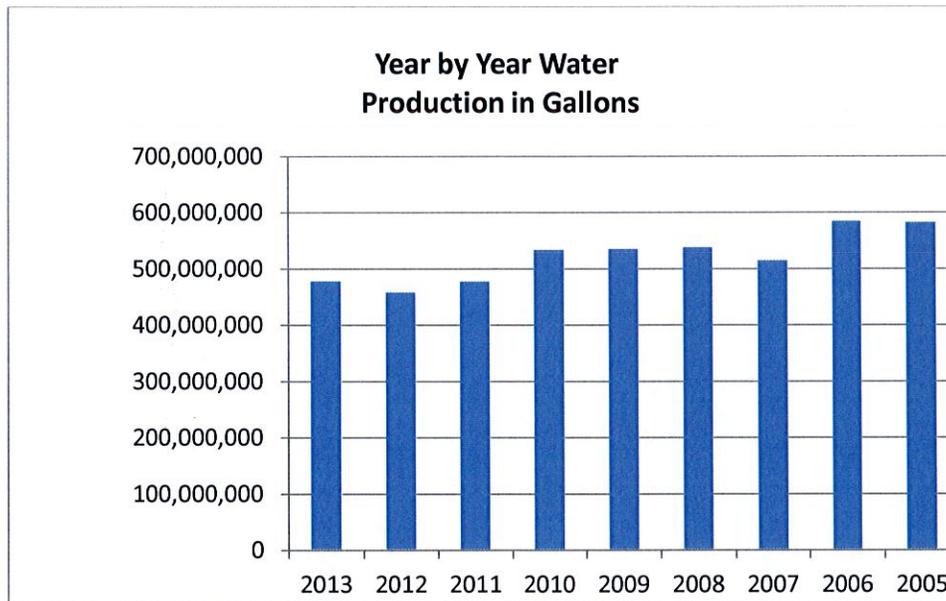


Water Report for 2013

Total Water Use

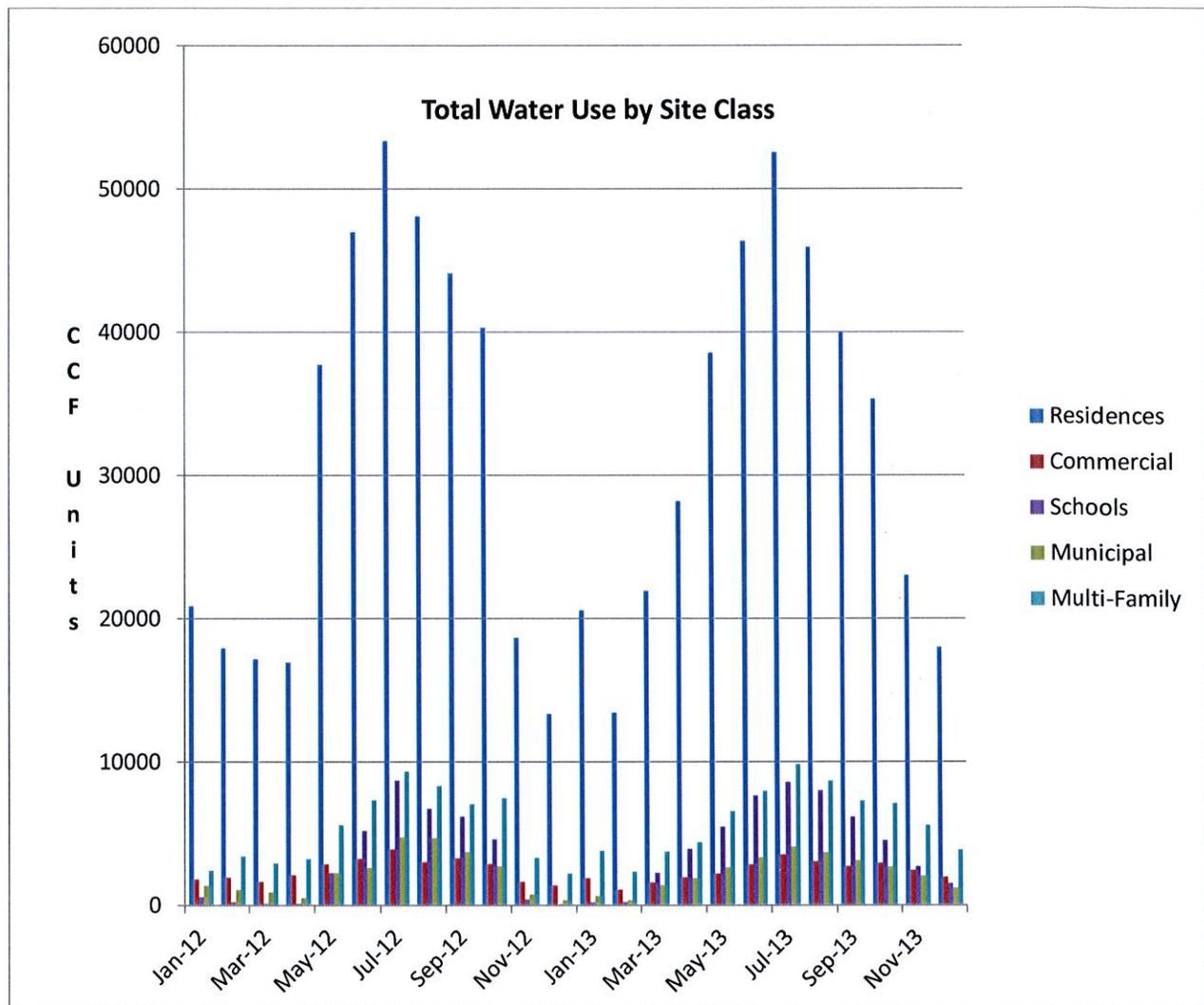
In 2013, the City of Winters as a whole used 566,188 CCF (4.235 million gallons) of water. Each CCF is one hundred cubic feet (748 gallons). This is an increase of 6.1 percent over the 2012 533,494 CCF (3.990m gallons). This is after years of a general decline in water use.



We started measuring and reporting water use in 2011 and charging residences based on water use in calendar 2012. Both changes led to reductions in water use, as people began to discuss water use and pay attention to it. The increase in 2013 is mostly attributable to the drought, which led people to water their yards more in winter months, though there may be an element of “conservation fatigue,” as people that can afford higher bills get tired of the subject and the extra effort.

Our per capita water use was 208 gallons per day. The Sacramento water region averages 249 gallons per day, and most other regions are less than that.

The new rates that start this month will hopefully promote more conservation, because the tiered rates hit high users harder. All the talk of drought may add to the sense of a need to conserve



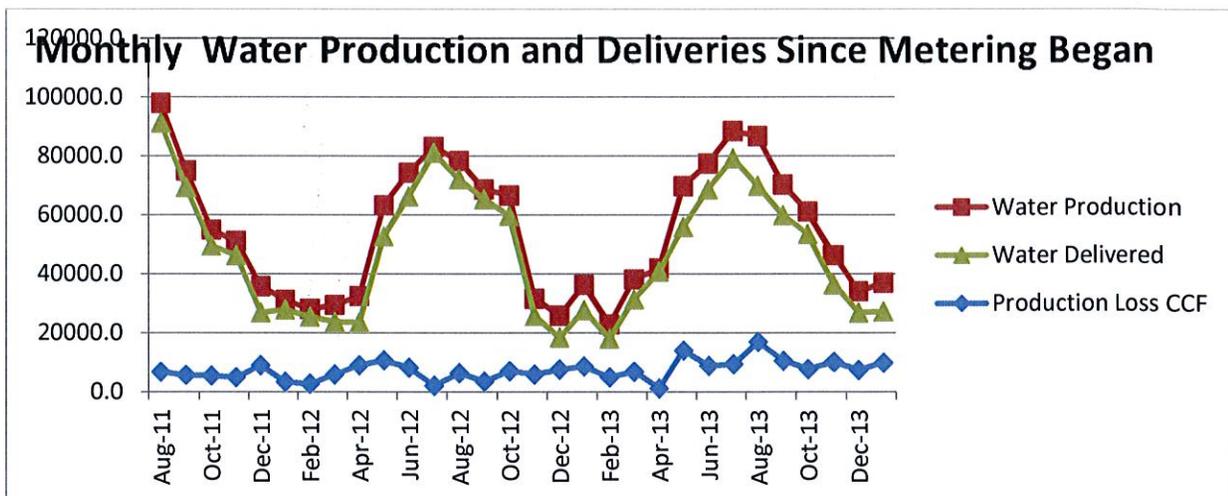
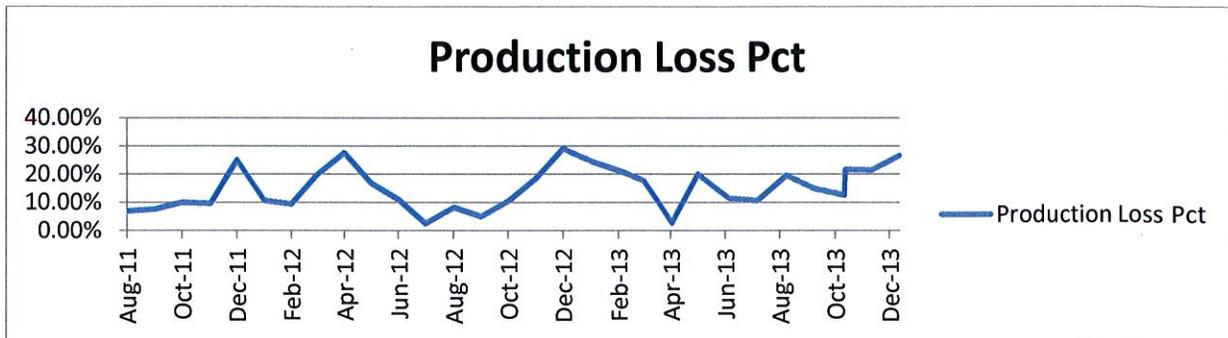
System Loss

By comparing well head production and measured water deliveries, we can calculate system loss, which is all water losses between wells and the customer’s meter. There are two types – counting losses through faulty accounting (unmetered connections, billing errors, faulty meters), and physical losses, such as system leaks and water theft. Nationally, 10 percent is considered acceptable in some states and 15 percent in others. Our losses have been running higher than that and increasing in the last half of 2013. We need to address this.

System loss:

2012: 14.0%, 71,252 CCF (53,296,400 gallons)

2013: 16.4%, 105,434 CCF (78,864,736 gallons)



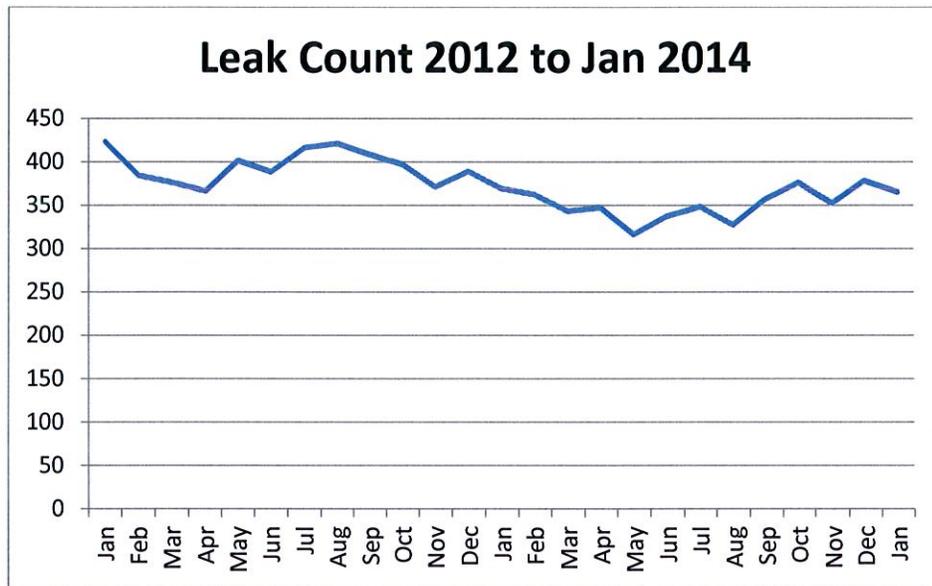
The Drought

Winters does not appear to be suffering yet from the drought. All our five producing wells appear to have stable water levels. Public awareness of the drought may help discussions as we move to higher rates this year.

Leaks

Our meters let us know if there is continuous water running through a meter, usually indicating a leak. It does not differentiate between small leaks and significant ones. The City now allows users to get a water bill reduction if they promptly repair leaks that are raising their water costs. A few have already taken advantage of this program.

Below is a track of how many meters report leaks. The number has reduced slightly over the years, but 350 is typical, about 17 percent of all accounts.



New Rates this year

Water –

Our new rate schedule went into effect Jan. 1. The new rates have two tiers. We are charging \$1.35 per unit for water use under the city average of 18 units, and \$1.91 per unit over that, in addition to the monthly \$20.03 flat rate. The council dialed back the aggressiveness of the three tiers originally proposed by our consultant, NBS. The new rates will still hit the highest of users very hard. Our third highest residential user in January is getting a \$406 water bill, and this owner does *not* have a leak.

Sewer-

The new sewer rates will start in January 2015, and for the first time, residences will be charged in part based on their water use the previous winter. The drought this winter could conceivably make their bills higher next winter, but the amount is small, because the bulk of their bill is the \$45 flat rate. They will be paying the \$45 flat plus \$1.65 times the average number of units used the previous winter.

Comparing this winter and last winter as a basis:

The average water use of lowest three months for *last* winter (2012/2013) is 8.43 units (Nov., Dec., Feb.).

The average of lowest three months for *this* winter (2013/2014), so far, is 10.20 units (Dec., Jan., Feb.). This may probably drop with rains in March.

Were we to base 2015 sewer on last winter (2012/2013), an average site would be billed \$58.66 for sewer, for every month of 2015.

In actuality, we will be basing it on *this* winter (2013/2014), and the bill would be \$61.83; \$3.17 more than using the previous winter, (5.4 percent higher).

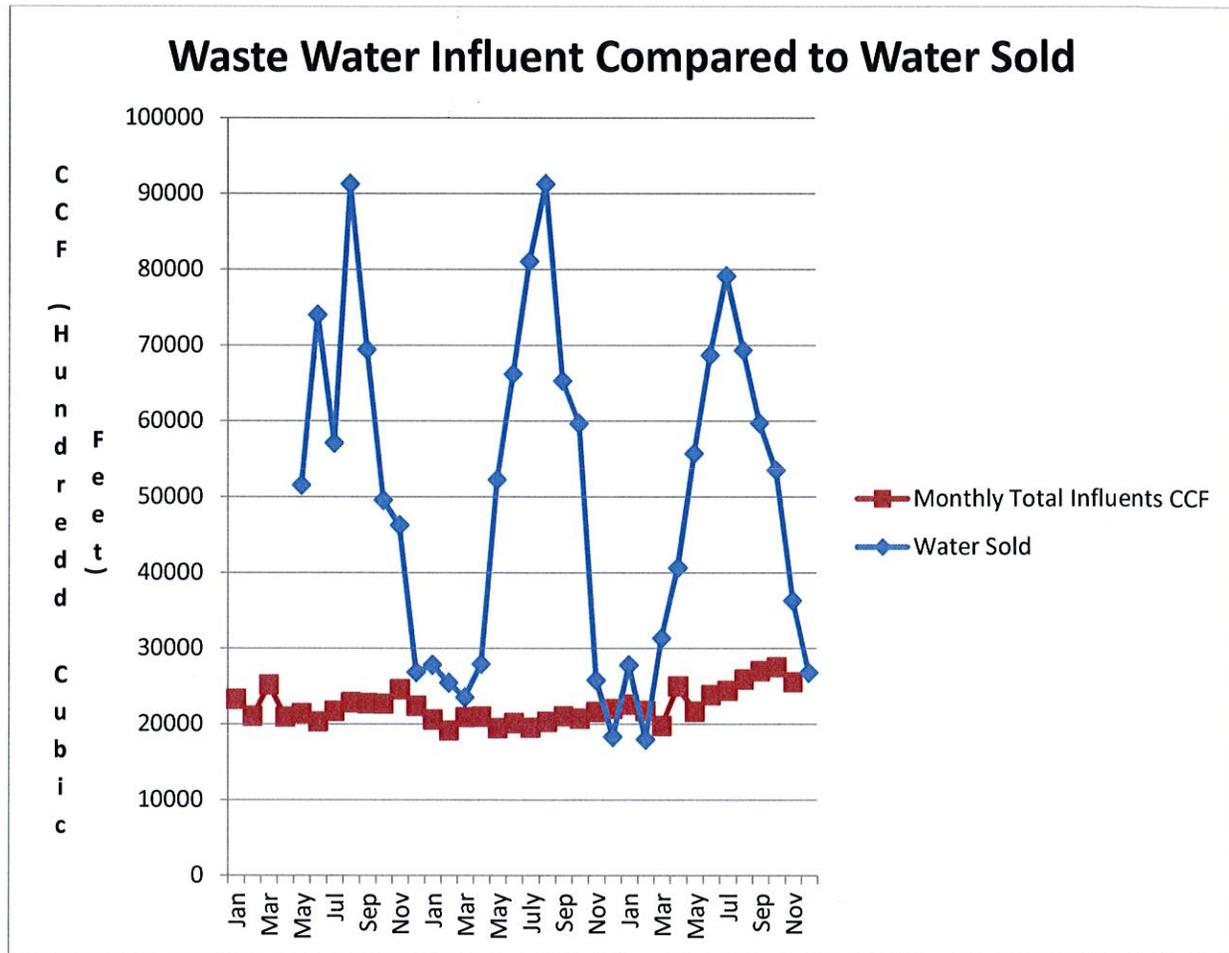
Keep in mind that a rainy Feb and March will reduce this amount.

Revenue

This January, water rate revenue will be about ten per cent higher than under the previous system. The goal in the new rates was to raise revenue by about 28 percent to cover capital payments on improvement bonds. The payments started last year. Revenue will be generated more heavily later in the year.

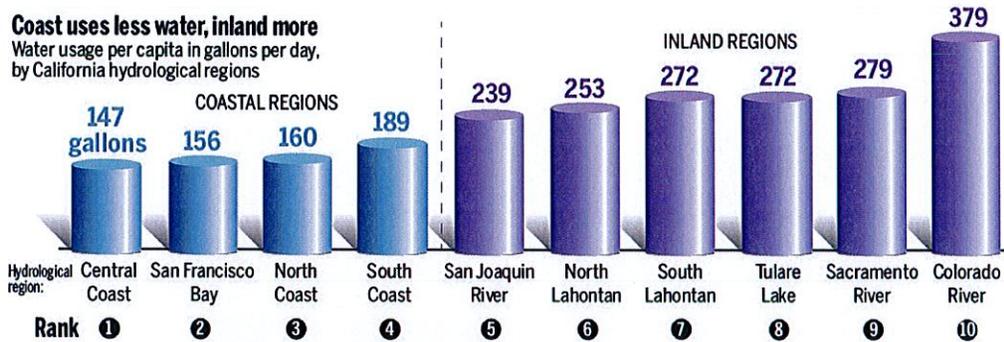
Sewer Flows

Flows of effluent into the waste water treatment facility have increased recently, for which we do not have an explanation.



Winters water use is 208 gallons per day per capita.

Coast uses less water, inland more
Water usage per capita in gallons per day, by California hydrological regions



Where the water sippers and guzzlers are

Californians use 196 gallons of water per capita per day, including all businesses except agriculture. But there are wide differences by community, and the moist coast uses less water than the arid inland. A sampling:

Usage by selected cities

Water usage per capita in gallons per day

183 Contra Costa Water District
Conservation and rebate programs have kept water usage below average.

98 San Francisco
Small lawns, foggy weather keep water consumption down.

76 Westborough Water District (South San Francisco)
The state's smallest water user.

334 Hillsborough
Bay Area's largest user, with its big, thirsty lawns.

152 Los Angeles
Despite its reputation as a desert water guzzler, decades of conservation have made the City of Angels a water miser.

Source: California Department of Water Resources

144 San Jose (S.J. Water Co.)
Conservation is working here and in almost every big city in California.

279

Sacramento
When 58 percent of residents don't have water meters, there's little incentive to conserve.

313

Fresno
Is typical of dry cities inland that need more water and suffer more when water is scarce.

736

Palm Springs
Usage is among the highest in the state because of hot weather, lawns, pools.

The worst?

94,111 gallons a day

Vernon

The state's highest usage by far is in the "exclusively industrial" city of Vernon, which boasts 1,800 businesses but only 112 inhabitants.

KARL KAHLER/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP