Update on Once-per-Week Watering Process

Austin Water Wastewater Commission
March 9, 2016

Daryl Slusher, Assistant Director, Austin Water

Reasons for Considering Changes to the Conservation Program

- Build on lessons learned from extended drought
- Very effective in conserving water and protecting lake levels
- Helps delay LCRA payment trigger, which saves ratepayers $10-15M/year
- Strengthens Austin's position in regional water policy deliberations
- Prepare for future climate conditions
- Continues encouraging residents to switch to drought-tolerant landscapes
- Could develop a hybrid stage…more of a combination of stage 1 and 2

Lake Travis, Jan. 2012. Photo: LCRA
Due to the drought, Sometimes Islands – which are normally under water – can be seen in this photo.

Other Aspects of One-Day-Per-Week Process

- Adjust other water use restrictions based on feedback and potential water savings
- Maintain effective, enforceable code

Overview of Process

- **December** Kick-off Open House Meeting at Waller Creek
- **January** 5 Open House Meetings around town (southwest, southeast, east/central, north central, northwest)
- **February** Wrap-up Meeting at Waller
  Public Utilities Committee
- **March** IWRP Task Force
  Water Wastewater Commission
  Resource Management Commission
- **Other communication efforts:**
  - Email blasts: Next Door, WaterWise e-newsletters, Speak Up Austin, Mayor/Council/CMO
  - Conversation Corps
  - Online and meeting-available survey

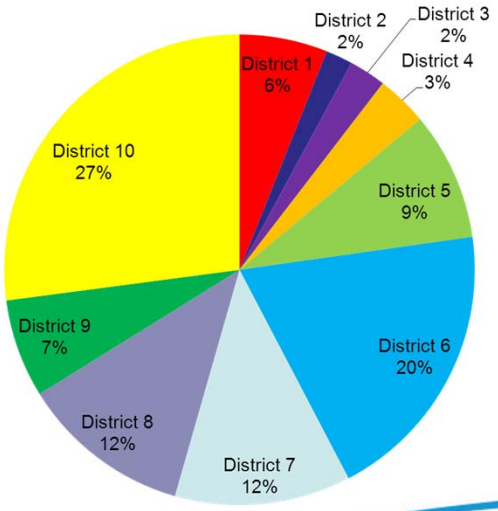
What Have We Heard?

- Concerns about one-day-per-week watering:
  - Concerns about over-regulation
  - Questions about response to future drought conditions/LCRA requirements
  - Rising costs: water prices, car washes, landscape changes
  - Support conservation but believe we should follow the existing code
- Support for one-day-per-week watering:
  - Belief that once per week is adequate and overdue
  - Wise due to changing climate

5

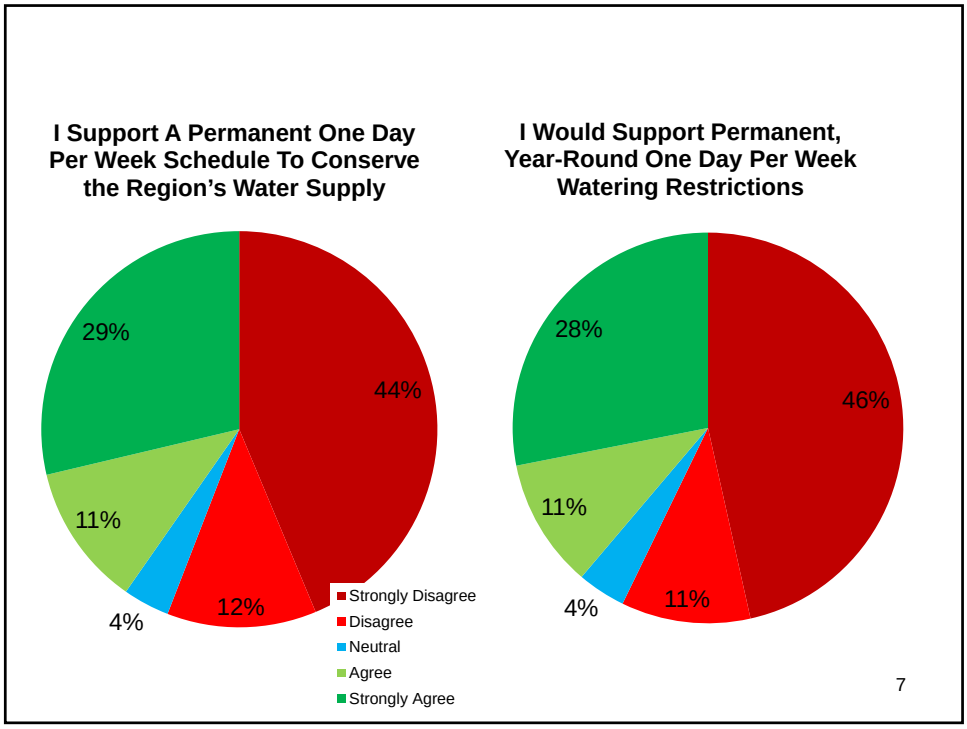
www.austintexas.gov/water

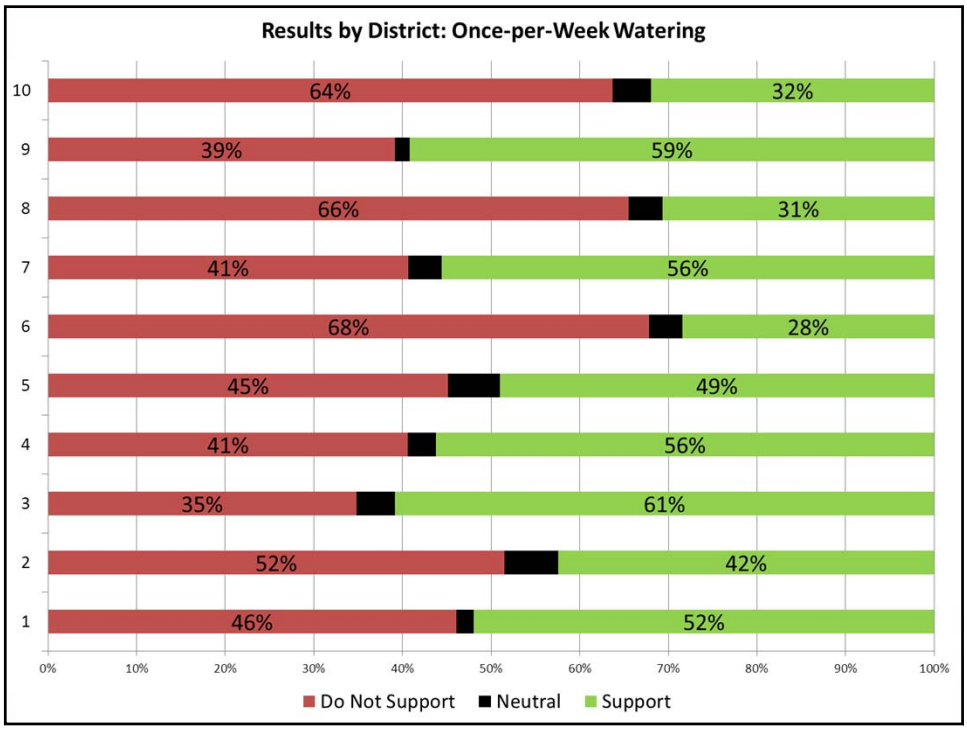
Survey Responses by District

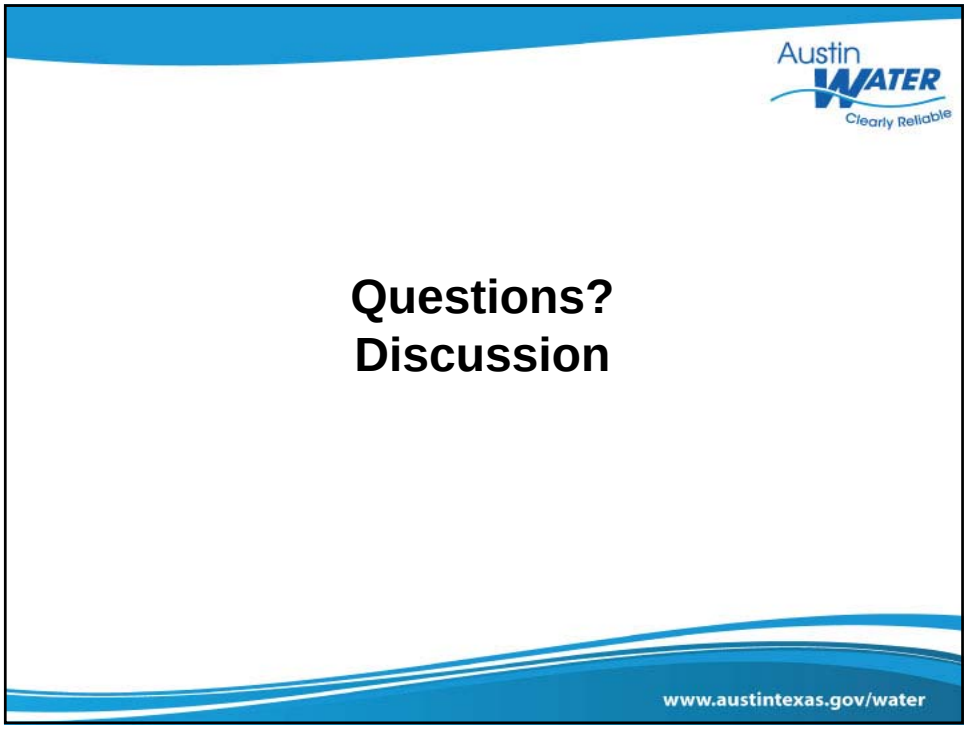


6

www.austintexas.gov/water


I Support A Permanent One Day Per Week Schedule To Conserve the Region's Water Supply
44%
12%
4%
11%
29%
Strongly Disagree
Disagree
Neutral
Agree
Strongly Agree
I Would Support Permanent, Year-Round One Day Per Week Watering Restrictions
46%
11%
4%
11%
28%
7


Results by District: Once-per-Week Watering
10
64%
32%
9
39%
59%
8
66%
31%
7
41%
56%
6
68%
28%
5
45%
49%
4
41%
56%
3
35%
61%
2
52%
42%
1
46%
52%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Do Not Support
Neutral
Support


Austin
WATER
Clearly Reliable
Questions?
Discussion
www.austintexas.gov/water