

CHAPTER II

ANALYSIS OF RESIDENTIAL PRACTICES

The per capita rate of residential water use is highly variable, influenced to a large degree by climate, seasonal variation and the location of water intensive industries.

Affluent customers use more outside water, for lawn watering and swimming pools, and somewhat more for water-using appliances, such as garbage disposals and automatic dish and clothes washers, than do the less affluent.¹

Community development and the type of water use also affect the rate of water use. Per capita water use can be significantly increased beyond normal residential use by industries in the community. Per capita water use in apartments, townhouses and condominiums is generally significantly lower than the rate of use in single-family residences because of lower per capita exterior use.

Understandably, the selling price of water has significant effect on the rate of water use, although price versus use relationships vary widely from one area to the next. According to various studies, metering also significantly affects residential water use. Water use in certain metered areas is at least 25 percent lower than in areas without meters.²

In general, larger families use more water per dwelling but less water per capita. Inside use increases with size of family, but family size affects outside use only slightly.