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Fascinating Water Facts Encourage Water Conservation ***A Message from the International Arid Lands Consortium***

8 August 2004 & 2003 - On average, our society uses almost 100 gallons of drinking water per person per day. Of the "drinking water" supplied by public water systems, only a small portion is actually used for drinking. Most Americans drink approximately half a gallon of water per day. That adds up to more than 1 billion glasses of tap water per day for all Americans! A male living to the age of 70 years will require about 1? million gallons of water over the course of his lifetime.

Approximately 35 gallons of water per person are used each day for public activities such as fire fighting, street washing, and park maintenance.

A typical family of four on a public water supply uses about 350 gallons per day at home, or 127,400 gallons of water annually. In contrast, a typical household that gets its water from a private well or cistern uses about 200 gallons for a family of four.

The average person uses 20 to 80 gallons of water each day in his home. Typical residential water use includes normal household uses such as drinking and cooking, bathing (20-30 gallons), toilet flushing (3 gallons), washing clothes (20-30 gallons) and dishes (10 gallons), watering lawns and gardens, maintaining swimming pools, and washing cars.

The amount of indoor water use remains fairly consistent throughout the year. The largest percentage of indoor water use occurs in the bathroom, with 41 percent used for toilet flushing and 33 percent used for bathing. Daily indoor per capita use in the typical single family home with no water-conserving fixtures is 74 gallons.

On average, 50 to 70 percent of home water is used outdoors for watering lawns and gardens. Outdoor water use varies greatly depending on geographic location and season. On an annual average, outdoor water use in the arid West and Southwest is much greater than in the East or Midwest.

People in the West use about 50 percent more public water than in the East, mostly due to the amount of landscape irrigation in the West. Rural areas typically consume less water for domestic purposes than larger towns.

California is the number one water use state (about 25% of the national total). Texas is number two. Other major water use states include Ohio, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Montana.

Water use per person can vary greatly among different communities because of climate differences, mix of domestic, commercial and industrial water uses, household sizes, lot sizes, public water uses, income brackets, and the age and condition of the water distribution system.