

From: Gary Nellesen  
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Subject: Water Usage Questions from News Report

1. Mr. Irwin's article indicates that Mt SAC is working to reduce water consumption by 32.5 million gallons over the next 10 years. That represents an *additional* reduction of 32.5 million gallons. We have already reduced consumption by over 61 million gallons. In 2007 we used about 185 Million gallons, so if we are successful in reducing consumption by another 32.5 million gallons in the next year or so, we will have cut our water consumption in half over the 10 year period between 2007 and 2017. So far this year, we are on track to use about 110 Million gallons.
2. We purchase water on a wholesale basis from Three Valleys Municipal Water District.
3. Our cost is less than a penny per gallon (about 0.28 cents per gallon). We paid \$330,086 for 115,929,359 gallons.
4. The process for drilling new wells begins with a study to determine which site on campus would be most productive, without taking water away from the other wells. As part of our building program, we have done many soils borings all across campus to identify the depth of the water table and to determine the quality of the soil and presence of rocky material. These subsurface conditions must be identified early to avoid obstructions or soils that would make it difficult to drill a water well, or result in an unproductive well. We are now in the process of correlating all of the soils boring data we have collected over the years. From there, we can recommend the best site or sites for the new wells, taking into consideration the proximity of power needed to operate the wells, and the distance from the well sites to the pasture or other areas that need water to irrigate. Once we have the recommended sites, we can hire a well drilling specialists to put in the wells, and other contractors to connect the power and water piping. We do have three wells operational at this time.