



## Goal 3: Public Infrastructure

**Desired Community Condition: A reliable water system meets health and safety standards.**



### Indicator: Leaks per Year in Water Mains

**Progress Rating:**    **Local Trend: STABLE**                      **National Comparison: NOT KNOWN**

### Indicator Description

This indicator measures the number of leaks in water mains and the water main and service line replacement expenditures. The number of leaks in water mains is an indicator of the condition of the system and thus, its ability to efficiently convey water through main lines to service lines to users. The amount of money spent to replace water and service lines is related to the number of leaks. The graphs show the number of leaks in water mains from 1986 to 2003, except for 2002 and the replacement expenditures from 1998 to 2003.

### Why is this indicator important?

A reliable water distribution system is critical for meeting health and safety needs of residents. This indicates the extent to which the system is supplying water and conserving water, not losing it through leakage. The distribution system is aging. Its steel and cast iron lines from the early to mid-1950's and high density polyethylene service lines have a high potential for developing leaks. The City is replacing small diameter steel water mains, high density polyethylene (HDPE), and other water mains that have a history of significant leaks. The goals of the replacement are to: (1) minimize the amount of water lost from the system, so that less water is pumped from the aquifer; (2) minimize the disruption of service to customers; and 3) maximize the useful life of the water system.

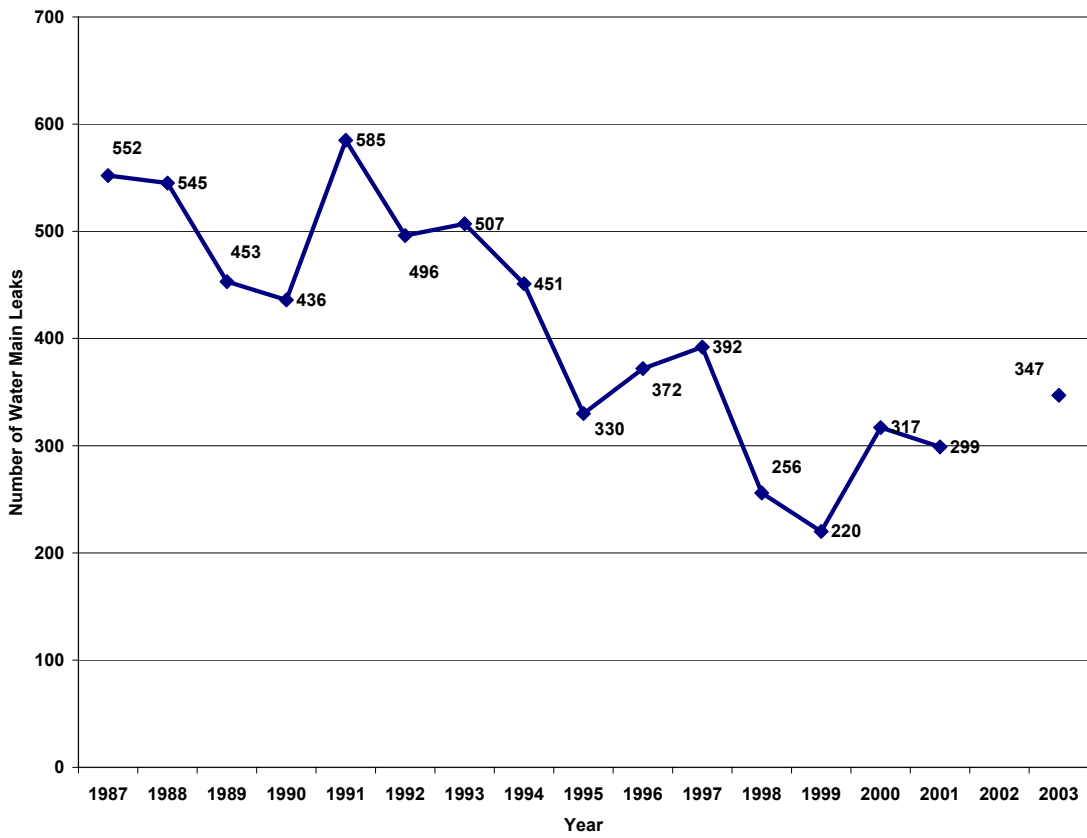
### Data Sources

City of Albuquerque Public Works Department, Water Utility Division

### What can we tell from the data?

- The overall trend of the number of water main leaks is decreasing; however, the 347 leaks reported in 2003 are the most leaks since 1997.
- The number of leaks is related to water main and service line replacement expenditures which vary significantly from year to year; the number of leaks decreases after a year of higher spending and increases after a year of reduced spending.

## Number of Water Main Leaks



## Water Main Replacement Expenditures (Millions\$)

