

Get with the program

Which of these complaints is acceptable?

"I used to smoke three packs of cigarettes a day. I cut back to two packs a day, but my doctor still says I smoke too much."

"My car used to get six miles to the gallon. After a tuneup, it now gets eight miles to the gallon, but the state still says I'm using too much fuel."

"I used to use 20 times more water than the average person. I took out some of my lawn so now I'm using only 15 times more, but Ranchos still says I'm using too much water."

The correct answer is none, because the important point is not what you used to do, or how much better you are now, but what you're doing to this day. If you used to kick your dog four times a day and you now only kick him three times a day, you're still kicking your dog!

To you Apple Valley Ranchos customers who try to shift the focus to how much less water you are using, do us all a favor and instead focus on how much water you are currently using.

Gov. Brown, the California Public Utilities Commission, the Mojave Water Agency, and Apple Valley Ranchos have each tried to impress upon you the importance of using much less water than you have been. Stop hiding behind the excuse that you used to use a lot more water and get with the program.

— *Greg Raven, Apple Valley*

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