

# 2017 Water Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study<sup>™</sup>

# **Orange County Utilities Final Results**

John Hazen, Senior Director, Utility Practice October 17, 2017

## What do Top-Performing Companies look like across ALL industries?

- 1. Adopt a culture that puts Employees and Customers first
- 2. Establish a Voice of Customer (VOC) vision, core values, and a brand promise
- 3. Clearly define the Customer Experience
- 4. Align the organization around the Customer Experience
- 5. Imbed a philosophy of Employee Empowerment
- 6. Evaluate performance for Continuous Improvement
- 7. Focus on Simplicity and Transparency



Top companies apply all of these characteristics to Key Touch Points and "Moments of Truth" across the entire customer experience.

# **2017 Water Residential Study Overview**



# **U.S. Water Suppliers – Four Regions**

West Anaheim Public Utilities Board of Water Supply (Honolulu) California American Water California Water Service City of Fresno City of Phoenix City of Sacramento City of San Diego **Colorado Springs Utilities** Denver Water East Bay Municipal Utility District Eastern Municipal Water District Golden State Water Company L.A. Dept. of Water & Power Las Vegas Valley Water District Long Beach Water Dept Mesa Water Resources Portland Water Bureau San Gabriel Valley Water Company San Jose Water Company Seattle Public Utilities SFPUC **Tucson Water** Water Utility Authority (Albuquerque)

#### Midwest

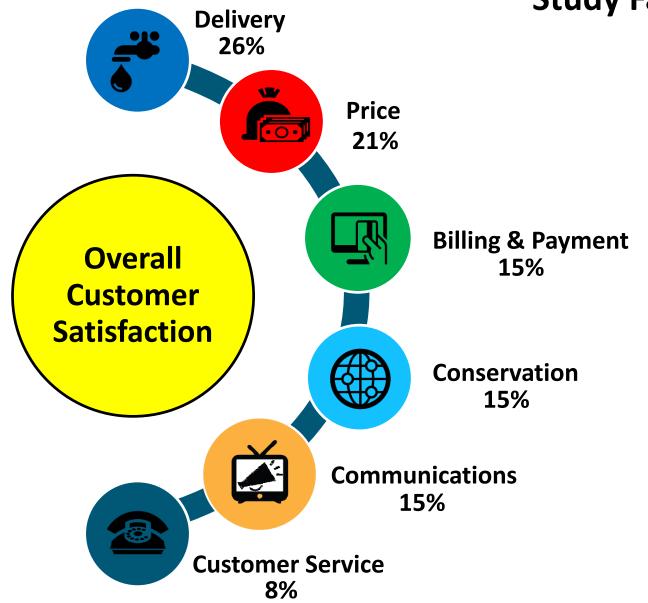
Aqua-Midwest	Indiana American Water
Citizens Energy Group	KC Water Services
City of Chicago	Louisville Water
City of Cleveland	Metropolitan Utilities District (Omaha)
City of Columbus	Milwaukee Water Works
Detroit Water and Sewerage Dept	Missouri American Water
Greater Cincinnati Water Works	Saint Paul Regional Water Services
Illinois American Water	



#### Northeast

Aqua-Northeast Aquarion Water Company Boston Water and Sewer Commission City of Baltimore DC Water **Erie County Water Authority** Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Monroe County Water Authority New Jersey American Water New York American Water NYC Environmental Protection Pennsylvania American Water Philadelphia Water Department Regional Water Authority (Connecticut) Suez (United Water)-Northeast Suffolk County WSSC

South		
Aqua-South	City of Raleigh	Miami-Dade County
Austin Water	City of Tampa	MLGW
Baton Rouge Water Company	City of Virginia Beach	Orange County Utilities
Birmingham Water Works	DeKalb County	Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC)
Charlotte Water	El Paso Water Utilities	Palm Beach County
City of Atlanta	Fairfax Water	Pinellas County
City of Dallas	Gwinnett County	San Antonio Water System
City of Fort Worth	JEA	The Cobb County Water System
City of Houston	Jefferson Parish	Tulsa Water
City of Newport News	Manatee County	
City of Oklahoma City	Metro Water Services (Nashville)	



# **Study Factors/Weighting**

# **National Key Findings**

34% Recall a Water Utility Communication 22% of Residential Customers had a Service Interruption

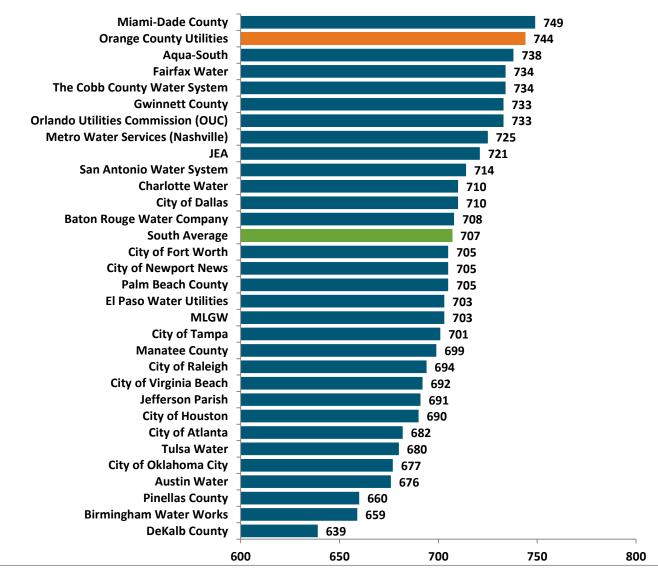
eBill is 37 Index Points More Satisfying than Paper Bill

64% First Call Resolution *'Onsite Water Audit'* is the highest rated service (9.07)

28% Unaware of Water Price

# 2017 Overall CSI

## South Region



#### **Overall Customer Satisfaction Index**

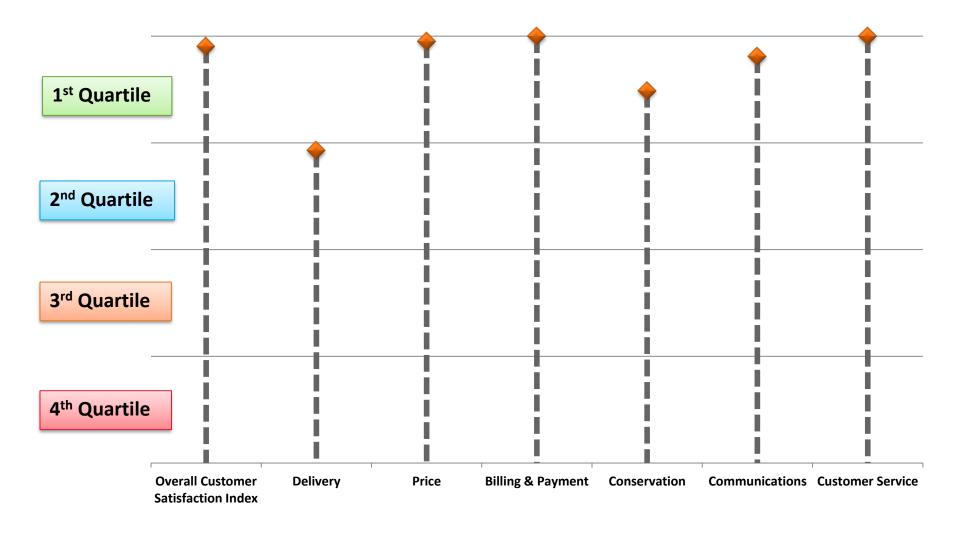
#### CSI Change vs. 2016

-16
N/A
+47
+27
+9
-3
-24
+12
+15
-17
-15
-5
+29
+2
-9
+10
-14
+10
-9
+14
+15
-8 +24
N/A
+5
-5
+38
-22
+22
-9
-25
-6

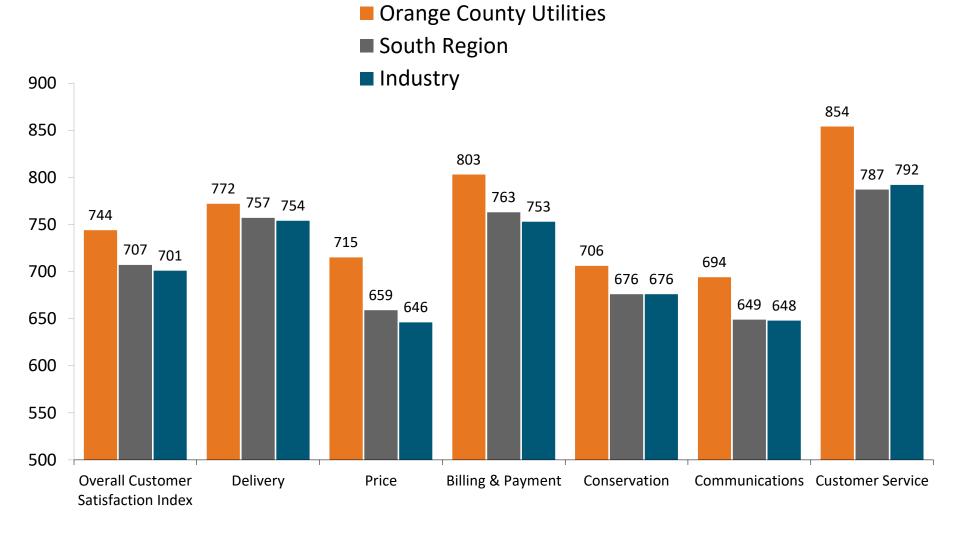
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# **2017 Water Residential Percentile**

## **Orange County Utilities**



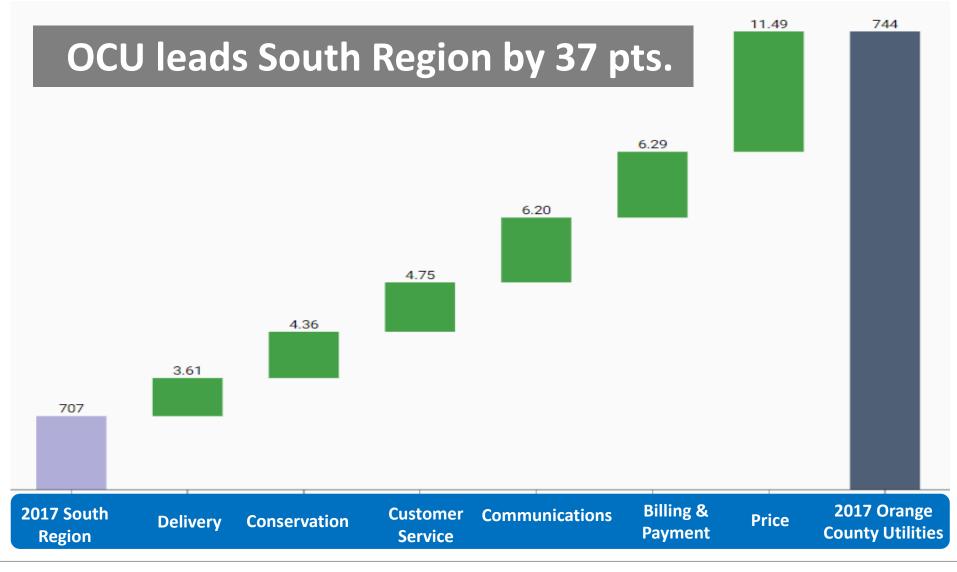
# **Overall Satisfaction Index Trend**



2017 Water Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study

# South Region Factor Gap to

**Orange County Utilities** 

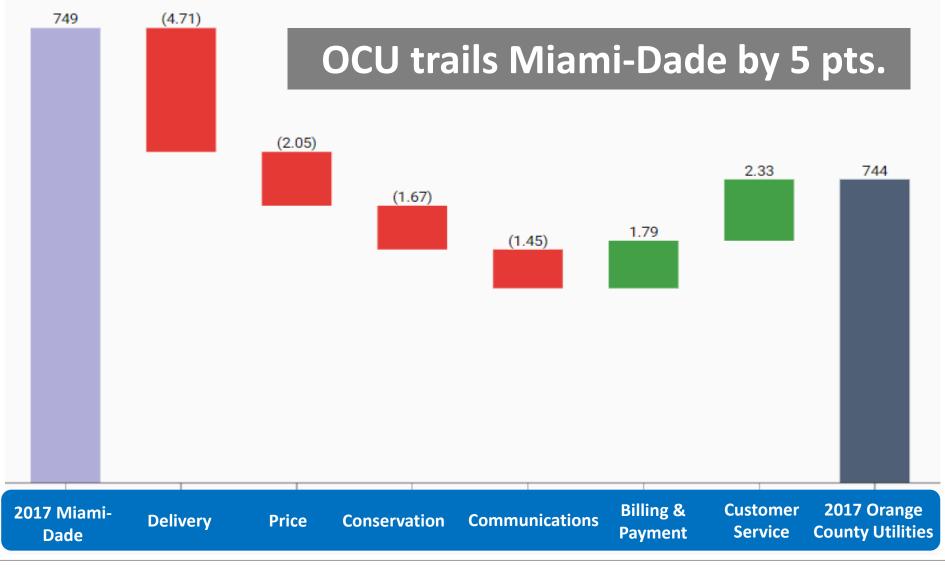


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2017 Water Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study

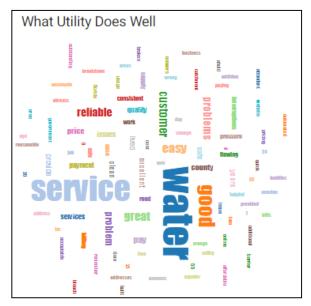
# **Miami-Dade Overall Factor Gap to**

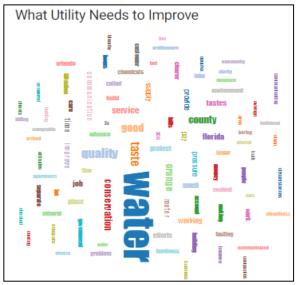
## **Orange County Utilities**



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## **Orange County Utilities Customer Comments...**





"No problems in the past 9 years. Water is always clean, pressure is good, and amount we pay is acceptable."

"I think their customer service is top notch. I usually get all my answers quickly, unlike other utility companies in my area."

"The price is great, as well as the service. They notify you repeatedly if your payment is due. I can't remember ever having an issue with our water in the 27 years we've lived at this address. Very reliable."

"They keep the water flowing and I can't remember a time when there was a problem with service."

"Great all around customer service."

"When bills are send via email, include the amount and due date of the bill instead of forcing me to login to my account to get these items."

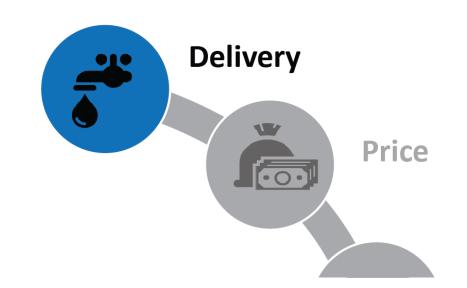
"Reduce hardness of water supply so we do not have water spots on cars, windows and dishes."



## **Factor Performance - Delivery**

Delivery	
Baton Rouge Water Company	811
Fairfax Water	805
The Cobb County Water System	794
Gwinnett County	793
Miami-Dade County	789
City of Newport News	777
MLGW	775
Orange County Utilities	772
City of Virginia Beach	768
Metro Water Services (Nashville)	767
Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC)	767
Aqua-South	763
City of Raleigh	762
Jefferson Parish	762
City of Fort Worth	761
San Antonio Water System	760
Charlotte Water	757
Manatee County	757
Palm Beach County	757
South Region Average	757
City of Dallas	756
El Paso Water Utilities	752
JEA	743
Tulsa Water	740
Birmingham Water Works	736
Austin Water	735
City of Oklahoma City	731
City of Atlanta	729
City of Tampa	726
City of Houston	721
Pinellas County	702
DeKalb County	693

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Percentage	Attributes	ocu	South
41%	Reliability of water service	8.20	7.98
32%	Quality of water	7.22	7.28
27%	Efforts to maintain the water infrastructure	7.58	7.29
	Overall delivery of water service (Avg.)	7.82	7.74

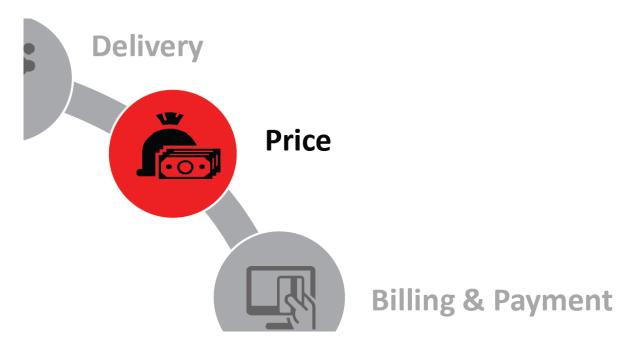




## **Factor Performance - Price**

Price	
Miami-Dade County	724
Orange County Utilities	715
Metro Water Services (Nashville)	706
The Cobb County Water System	703
Aqua-South	698
Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC)	691
Gwinnett County	689
Fairfax Water	684
City of Tampa	676
JEA	665
Charlotte Water	663
City of Dallas	662
Baton Rouge Water Company	659
South Region Average	659
MLGW	658
Palm Beach County	657
San Antonio Water System	656
City of Houston	654
City of Fort Worth	648
Manatee County	647
Tulsa Water	638
City of Newport News	636
City of Oklahoma City	635
El Paso Water Utilities	635
City of Atlanta	633
City of Raleigh	633
Jefferson Parish	631
Austin Water	603
City of Virginia Beach	603
Pinellas County	598
DeKalb County	581
Birmingham Water Works	565

## 2 of 31 - South 2 of 87 – U.S.



Percentage	Attributes	OCU	South
38%	Total cost of your water service	7.15	6.53
36%	Fairness of pricing	7.10	6.48
26%	Ease of understanding your pricing	7.22	6.81
	Overall price (Avg.)	7.15	6.59





## **Factor Performance - Billing & Payment**

Billing & Payment		
Orange County Utilities	803	
Miami-Dade County	792	
JEA	786	
Aqua-South	781	
Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC)	778	
Gwinnett County	777	
Metro Water Services (Nashville)	776	
The Cobb County Water System	776	
City of Raleigh	774	
San Antonio Water System	770	
Palm Beach County	769	
City of Dallas	768	
Charlotte Water	766	
Fairfax Water	765	
Manatee County	764	
City of Tampa	763	
South Region Average	763	
City of Houston	762	
MLGW	760	
City of Fort Worth	758	
City of Atlanta	756	
City of Virginia Beach	755	
Jefferson Parish	755	
El Paso Water Utilities	751	
City of Newport News	750	
City of Oklahoma City	749	
Tulsa Water	738	
Baton Rouge Water Company	736	
Pinellas County	730	
Birmingham Water Works	729	
Austin Water	728	
DeKalb County	700	

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Percentage	Attributes	OCU	South
28%	Ease of paying your bill	8.32	7.84
25%	Amount of time given to pay your bill	7.90	7.54
25%	Usefulness of information on your bill	7.82	7.52
22%	Variety of methods to pay your bill	8.03	7.61
	Overall billing and payment experience (Avg.)	8.06	7.72



## **Factor Performance - Conservation**

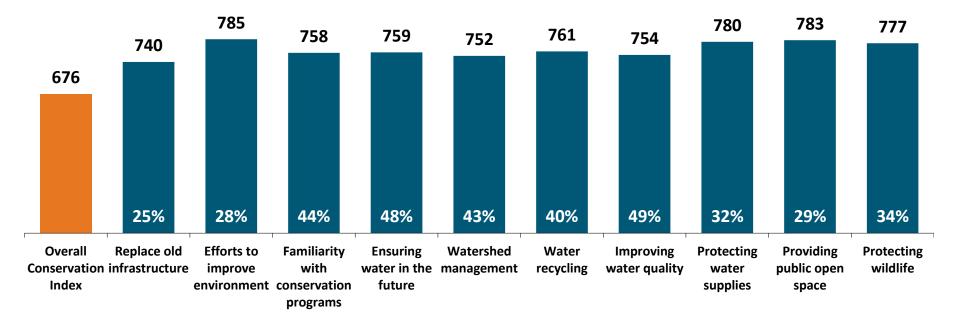
Aqua-South	723
Miami-Dade County	717
Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC)	714
Orange County Utilities	706
JEA	706
Fairfax Water	705
Gwinnett County	700
San Antonio Water System	700
El Paso Water Utilities	695
Metro Water Services (Nashville)	691
City of Dallas	686
The Cobb County Water System	683
City of Newport News	680
City of Tampa	676
South Region Average	676
Palm Beach County	675
City of Fort Worth	672
Austin Water	669
Charlotte Water	669
City of Virginia Beach	665
City of Houston	660
City of Atlanta	659
Manatee County	656
Baton Rouge Water Company	645
Pinellas County	641
City of Raleigh	637
Tulsa Water	637
Jefferson Parish	635
MLGW	635
City of Oklahoma City	625
Birmingham Water Works	619
DeKalb County	604

Communications

Percentage	Attributes	OCU	South
34%	Variety of water conservation programs offered	6.99	6.71
33%	Actions to take care of the environment	7.05	6.77
33%	Planning for the future	7.15	6.81
	Overall conservation (Avg.)	7.16	6.79

# **Conservation Index by Awareness of Utility Efforts on...**

Industry



#### **Awareness Impact on Overall Satisfaction**

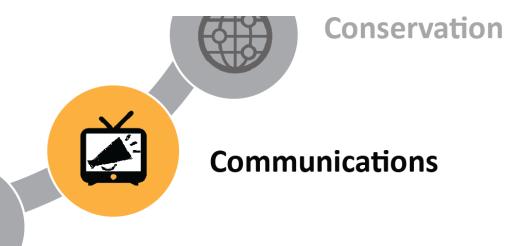




## **Factor Performance - Communications**

Communications	
Miami-Dade County	704
Aqua-South	700
Orange County Utilities	694
JEA	691
Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC)	690
Fairfax Water	668
Gwinnett County	667
The Cobb County Water System	667
Charlotte Water	663
City of Dallas	662
San Antonio Water System	659
El Paso Water Utilities	655
Metro Water Services (Nashville)	655
South Region Average	649
City of Tampa	646
City of Newport News	643
City of Fort Worth	641
Palm Beach County	640
City of Houston	636
MLGW	634
Manatee County	630
City of Virginia Beach	628
Jefferson Parish	628
Austin Water	626
City of Atlanta	623
Baton Rouge Water Company	615
City of Raleigh	615
Pinellas County	609
City of Oklahoma City	606
Tulsa Water	605
Birmingham Water Works	601
DeKalb County	571
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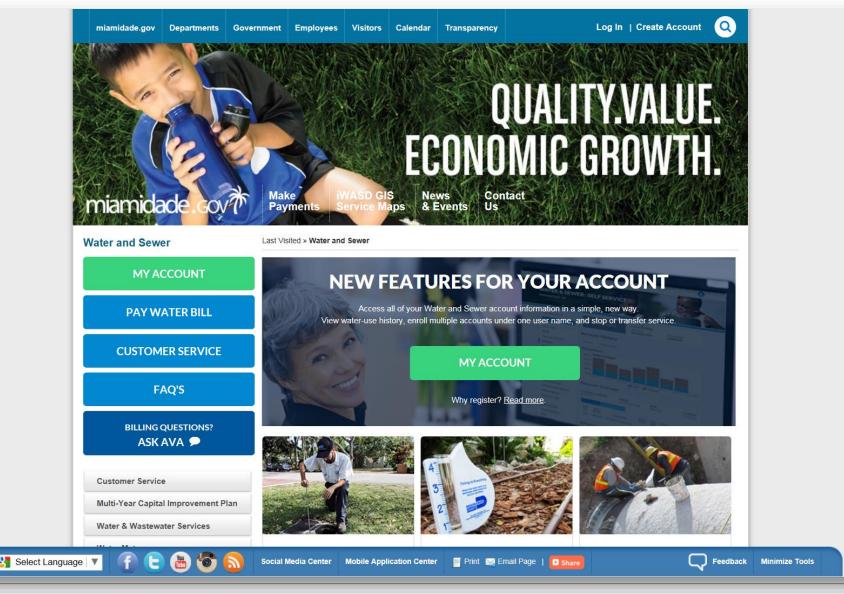
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## **Customer Service**

Percentage	Attributes	OCU	South
26%	Efforts to communicate changes that affect account / service	7.04	6.58
26%	Usefulness of suggestions to reduce usage / lower bills	7.05	6.65
24%	Creating messages that get your attention	6.81	6.34
24%	Keeping you informed about efforts to keep water costs low	6.85	6.39
	Overall communications (Avg.)	7.07	6.63

## **Miami-Dade County – Highest in Communications**



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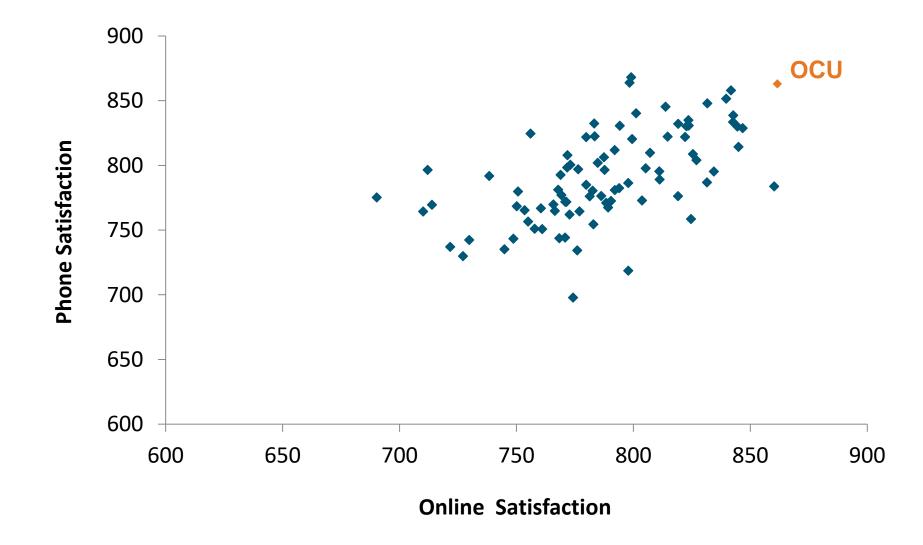
## **Factor Performance - Customer Service**

Orange County Utilities	854
Palm Beach County	845
Miami-Dade County	827
Fairfax Water	820
Aqua-South	818
Metro Water Services (Nashville)	816
Gwinnett County	812
The Cobb County Water System	806
IEA	805
City of Newport News	798
City of Dallas	797
Pinellas County	791
Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC)	788
South Region Average	787
City of Houston	784
MLGW	783
Charlotte Water	776
City of Virginia Beach	774
City of Fort Worth	772
San Antonio Water System	771
City of Atlanta	766
City of Tampa	761
El Paso Water Utilities	760
Austin Water	756
Baton Rouge Water Company	756
City of Raleigh	755
Tulsa Water	754
City of Oklahoma City	751
Manatee County	743
Birmingham Water Works	742
	739
Jefferson Parish	

Communications Customer Service

Percentage	Sub Factors
49%	Telephone
34%	Online
17%	In Person / Field

# **Orange County Utilities – Highest in Customer Service**



# 2018 Water Residential Study - Timetable

## Wave 1

June 2017

Readout: August 15, 2017

## Wave 2

September 2017

Readout: October 17, 2017

## Wave 3

December 2017

Readout: January 23, 2018

## Wave 4

March 2018

Subscriber Webcast/VoX Delivery/mTAB Access: May 8, 2018 Press Release: May 9, 2018

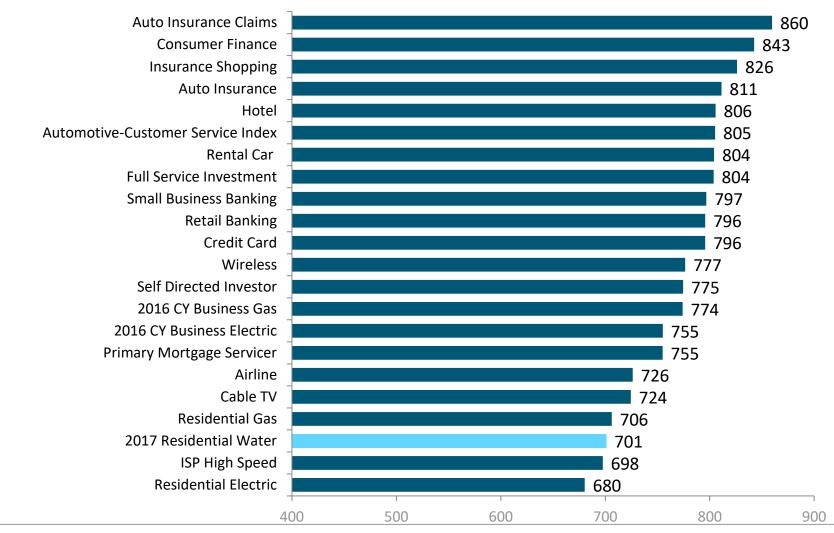
Index Scores = Average Across All 4 Waves

## \*Note – for 2018 added a new Wastewater Section

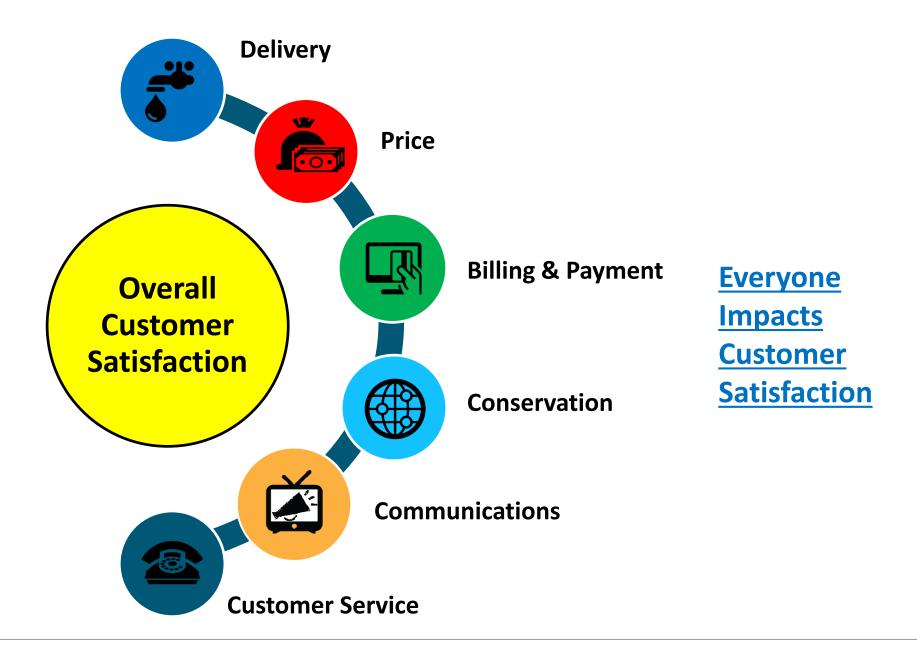
# **Next Steps**

# **Residential Water Utilities have one of the lowest Customer Satisfaction Indexes compared to other industries**

## **2016 Overall Customer Satisfaction Index**



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# **Next Steps**

- Communicate findings, congratulate staff efforts
- Continue to provide best-in-class customer service
- Evaluate the J.D. Power customer survey data
- Identify improvement opportunities
  - Customers rank onsite water audit highest (9.07 of 10)
  - 28% of customers surveyed are unaware of price of water
  - 64% first call resolution
  - Electronic Billing & Payment 37 index points
  - Better utilization of website
  - Increase customer awareness by sharing:
    - Substantial efforts in maintaining infrastructure
    - Award-winning reclaimed water program
    - Planning for future water supply



# 2017 Water Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study<sup>™</sup>

# **Orange County Utilities Final Results**

John Hazen, Senior Director, Utility Practice October 17, 2017