## Finding #3: Data

The team also attempted to answer two data-specific questions: 1) How much energy water utilities were saving through participation in energy efficiency programs, and 2) whether water utilities are net payers into the public purpose programs or net benefiters of the programs. Because water utilities are big users of energy, they are also big contributors to the public purpose program surcharge.

The team wanted to answer the first question by asking water utilities how much their energy bills changed as a result of participating in various energy efficiency programs. However, because water agencies do not measure energy use by process, it was not possible to determine an accurate figure. Water agencies were only able to provide gross energy usage between 2006-08, but this figure doesn’t allow us to implicitly relate decreased energy usage to participation. For example, it’s possible that energy usage could have changed as a result of system expansion or increased demand.

Although the team was not able to gather water-agency level data in order to assess these questions, there was some data available from Southern California Edison that provide us a rough baseline of how energy efficiency programs are impacting water agencies.

Southern California Edison’s quarterly energy efficiency report provides a summary of the various programs offered, the gross energy savings, the number of units installed, and the amount of rebate paid. Using this database, we determined that the programs that water utilities are eligible for have saved over 550,000,000 kWh between 2006-2008. It is important to note that kWh savings drops significantly from the 4th quarter of 2007 through 2008.