ONE WATER, MANY WAYS TO SAVE

Helping Californians Respond to Historic Drought

Southern California Association of Governments Energy & Environment Committee

July 7, 2022

Presentation Overview

- Introduction to Metropolitan
- Current Drought Conditions & State Regulations
- Conservation Efforts & Assistance
About Metropolitan

Nation’s largest wholesale water provider

5,200 square miles throughout 6 counties, 19 million people through 26 public member water agencies

Supports $1 trillion regional economy

Imports water from Northern Sierra and the Colorado River, invests in local projects & conservation

Record Breaking Drought Continues: Three Driest Years on Record in California
First Ever Shortage Declared on the Colorado River

Lake Mead water levels

January 2020 to April 2022 in feet

Source: Bureau of Reclamation

Water Shortage Emergency Impacted SWP Areas

These areas either restricted to one-day/week watering, or equivalent reductions
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

Emergency Regulations

**Executive Order N-7-22**

Issued March 28, 2022
ADOPTED MAY 24, 2022

**SWRCB emergency regulations in effect June 1, 2022, for urban water suppliers**

- Suppliers enact Level 2 of Water Shortage Contingency Plans
- Ban potable water irrigation of non-functional or decorative turf
  - Focused on Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII)
  - Exceptions to ensure health of trees (and other perennial non-turf plantings)
Some Typical Stage/Level 2 Restrictions

- Outdoor landscape irrigation is limited to two days per week, morning/evening only, no water during/after rain event
- Vehicle washing only with hose & shutoff nozzle
- Use a broom on driveways or sidewalks
- Restaurants to serve water on request
- Fix leaks in a timely manner

Turf Regulation Focused on CII Sector

- Excludes park, sports fields, and other turf used for recreation or community events
- Allows irrigation of turf on the same valve as trees
- Does not apply to recycled water
- Infractions punishable by a fine of up to $500 for each day in violation
California is in a drought emergency. In Southern California, we don't have enough water in some parts of the region to meet normal demands. Every drop we save today counts. Metropolitan Water District and local water districts are taking extraordinary efforts to ensure we have what we need in the coming months. Now is the time to dramatically reduce your water use, and we're here to help.
Water-efficient device rebates include:

- Premium high-efficiency toilets
- High-efficiency clothes washers
- Flow monitor/leak detection devices
- Rotating sprinkler nozzles
- Rain barrels and cisterns
- Weather-based irrigation controllers
- Soil moisture sensor systems
Rebates available for:
- Turf replacement
- High-efficiency plumbing fixtures
- HVAC equipment
- Commercial kitchen & food equipment

Commercial Rebates.

Commercial Turf Replacement Program
- Approximately 96 million square feet of commercial turf removed since July 1990
- Current rebate $2/square foot for all commercial sites; 50,000 sf cap
- Rebate for public agency sites $3/sf; 200,000 sf cap

Metropolitan’s Activities

Metropolitan offers technical assistance for these projects.
Commercial Turf Removal is Non-Functional Turf Removal

Three (3) plants per 100 sf

Storm water retention feature

Non-Functional Turf Removal
Non-Functional Turf Removal

City of Simi Valley Welcome Corner

Developing an Interactive Turf Measurement Dashboard for Member Agencies

Categories can be isolated to understand the magnitude of the issue.

Landscape Classes & Resources
Classes for Landscape Professionals & City Staff

Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program

Contractors placed on www.bewaterwise.com upon passing the course

Free class! $50 deposit
Returned on completion of course
Next session: Fall 2022

Classes coming Fall 2022
Sign up www.SoCalGas.com

MWEO: State regulation designed to prevent water waste on irrigated landscapes

Typically triggered by building permits for irrigation systems, building additions, pools

Residential Landscape Classes

Topics include:

- Turf Replacement
- Garden Design
- Rainwater Capture
- Irrigation Basics
- Drip Irrigation Maintenance & Troubleshooting
- Deciphering Your Irrigation Controller

Sign up for a class and learn about water-saving rebates at: Bewaterwise.com/classes
California Friendly Landscape Maintenance

Maintenance Guidebook
- Maintenance guide for landscapers, gardeners, and land managers

The WaterWise Garden Guidebook

Both available as PDF for free: http://bewaterwise.com

Questions.

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