



Statewide Integrated Water Management
Water Use and Efficiency Branch
www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency

What services does the DWR Water Use and Efficiency Branch offer?

The DWR Water Use and Efficiency (WUE) Branch provides expert information and technical assistance to local agencies and individuals regarding agricultural and urban water and energy conservation, recycled and desalinated water, land and water use, and drainage management. The WUE Branch:

- Manages the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS), which collects data from over 140 automated weather stations throughout the State. CIMIS provides reference evapotranspiration (ET_o) and weather data to the public for irrigation scheduling and other purposes such as water balance analyses, pest management, energy generation, fire fighting, weather forecasting, and scientific research.
- Carries out data analysis, demonstration projects, and research to achieve energy and water use efficiency and responds to data requests on water use and efficiency factors.
- Offers technical assistance and guidance to urban and agricultural water suppliers in the development of water management plans. DWR reviews urban and agricultural water management plans for compliance with California Water Code requirements including SB X7-7 provisions such as 20x2020 and the implementation of efficient water practices. Provides loans and grants to make more efficient use of water and energy resources.
- Awarded more than \$115 million in grants to more than 275 agricultural and urban water use efficiency projects since 2002. Projects included research and development, pilots, technical assistance, training, education, outreach, and implementation projects for water savings in the urban sector (e.g., installation of low-flow toilets and fixtures, high efficiency washer rebates, leak detection, and water efficient landscapes) and in the agricultural sector.
- Develops urban and agriculture water use estimates and other data requirements for the California Water Plan.
- Implements California water use efficiency laws and regulations, including SB X7-7 (agriculture and urban water use efficiency), AB1420 (demand management measure implementation), and AB1881 (Model Efficient Landscape Ordinance).
- Supports the use of recycled and desalinated water to meet California's water demands by assessing current and planned uses, awarding grants, and providing technical assistance.

Response to the Governor's 2014 Drought Emergency Proclamation

DWR's Water Use and Efficiency Branch is monitoring urban and agricultural water agencies' and local municipalities' drought planning and actions and is actively working to provide the public and local agencies with drought management resources to implement the Governor's proclamation orders regarding water conservation and other activities to meet the current drought emergency. Current drought projects include:

Urban Drought Projects

- Collaborating with Save Our Water (SOW) campaign to provide timely information on how the general public and residents can save water. (See www.saveourh2o.org/)
- Partnering with the California Center of Urban Horticulture (UC Davis) to host regional drought workshops for landscapers.

- Collaborating with the State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, CalRecycle and the California Urban Water Conservation Council to hold two landscape symposia – one on May 22nd at the Southern California Gas Company, Energy Resource Center in Downey, CA and the other on May 29th in Sacramento at a location to be determined.
- Providing workshops and webinars to support urban water suppliers on water shortage contingency planning and implementation. The first webinar is on drought rate structures that promote conservation while maintaining a stable revenue and will be on March 4, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
(See http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/2014/022014_Drought_Rate_Webinar_03-03-14.pdf)
- Co-sponsoring leak detection and drought response training by California Rural Water Association to help small water suppliers find leaks in their distribution systems to repair and save water.

Agricultural Drought Projects

- Co-sponsoring agricultural drought management workshops throughout the State and the development of online educational modules by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) to help growers best manage limited water supplies.
- Supporting UC ANR efforts to provide growers and other agricultural entities with updated and new drought management fact sheets, online resources, and other technical assistance specific to individual commodity and regional conditions, as well as general conditions.
- Providing funding through an interagency agreement to the Irrigation Technology Research Center (ITRC) for local water agency Efficient Water Management Practices (EWMP) implementation assistance.

Drought Projects Materials, Information and Outreach

- Developing water use efficiency web-based drought management tools and information to supplement the Urban Drought Guidebook 2008 Updated Edition.
- Revising the water use efficiency website to highlight drought response information, resources, and tools for different types of water users such as: commercial, institutional, and industrial; residential and multifamily; agricultural; urban water suppliers; landscapers; and, educators.
- Developing water conservation information targeting state employees to reduce water use by state government.
- Responding to public comments and information requests in a timely and accurate manner such as: assisting local agencies, the public, and other groups by providing updated information on water use (e.g., regional and urban statewide water use data in gallons per capita per day).
- Exploring possible drought related applications for mobile devices.

Recycled Water and Desalination

Using recycled and desalinated water can expand California's water supplies. These supplies are less impacted by drought than traditional supplies and by diversifying supply sources, water suppliers can be better able to respond to drought conditions. Currently, the WUE Branch is:

- Coordinating with the State Water Resources Control Board and California Department of Public Health to identify opportunities to use recycled water for emergency drought supply.
- Reviewing proposals to award up to \$8.7 million in Proposition 50 (2002) funds for water desalination grants for construction of desalination facilities, pilot and demonstration studies, feasibility studies, environmental documentation, and research.