



STATE WATER BOARD RULEMAKING: MAKING CONSERVATION A CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE

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Conservation Framework Rulemaking

- On August 18, the State Board initiated the formal rulemaking for “Making Conservation a California Way of Life” (Regulation) and released draft regulatory text intended to implement AB 1668 and SB 606.
- These bills were passed by the Legislature in 2018 to develop a regulatory framework to achieve long-term water use efficiency.
- https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/conservation/regs/water_efficiency_legislation.html



Four Primary Goals

1. Use Water More Wisely

- Create, adopt, report, and enforce water budget-based method for quantifying urban retail water supplier water use targets

2. Eliminate Water Waste

- Setting urban retail supplier water loss standard, methodology, reporting and enforcement (in coordination with SB 555 requirements, 2015)
- Customer Prohibitions

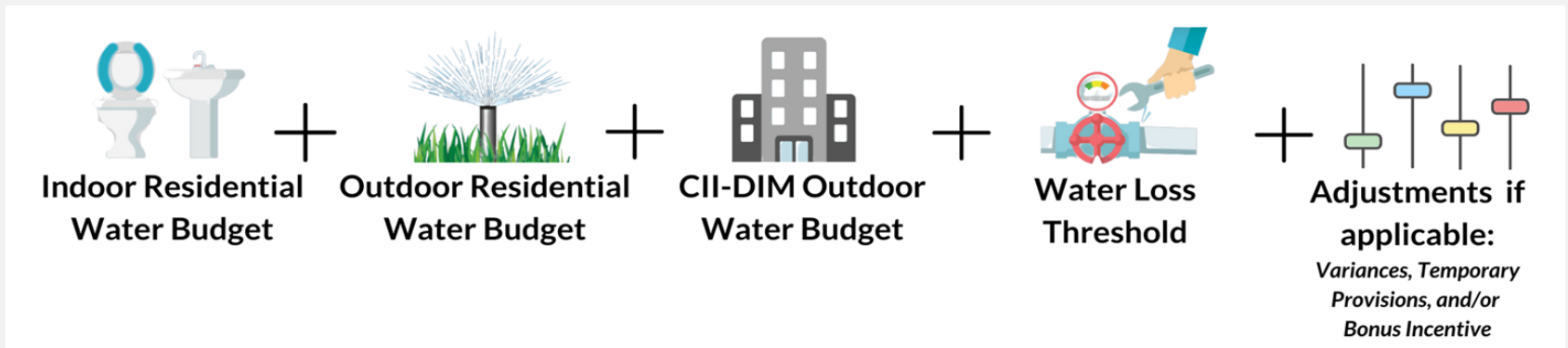
3. Strengthen Local Drought Resilience

- Emergency declaration based on local water shortages
- Urban water shortage contingency planning
- Countywide planning for small water suppliers and rural communities

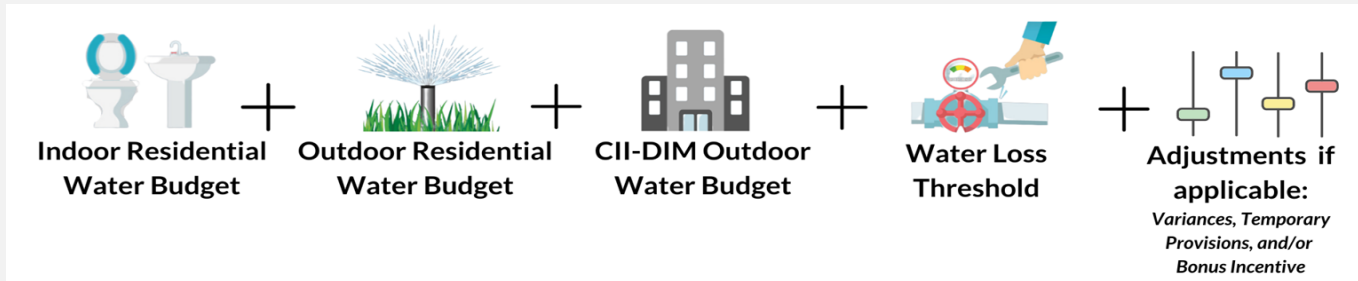
4. Improve Agricultural Water Use Efficiency & Drought Planning

Proposed Regulation

1. Would Require Urban Retail Water Suppliers to Meet an Agency-Specific Urban Water Use Objective Starting in 2025.
 - The Urban Water Use Objective is a total water budget that is the sum of efficiency budgets for a subset of urban water uses that include:



Proposed Regulation



- Each suppliers' Urban Water Use Objective will be calculated using statewide efficiency standards for the above urban water uses along with unique local service area characteristics such as population, climate, and landscape area.
- The State Water Board's rulemaking will consider adoption of the statewide efficiency standards for outdoor residential water use, CII landscapes with dedicated irrigation meters (DIMs), variances, and bonuses.
- Statewide efficiency standards for indoor residential water use and water loss are already adopted.

Proposed Regulation

2. Would Require Urban Retail Water Suppliers to Implement Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII) Performance Measures.

Jan. 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	20% by 2026 + 60% by 2028 + 100% by 2030
Identify all disclosable buildings in in suppliers' service areas (>50,000 sq. ft.).	Ban the irrigation of non-functional turf on CII landscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classify all CII customers in accordance with ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager's categories.• Identify all CII large landscapes that have mixed-use meters and either install DIM or employ in-lieu technologies for large landscapes.• Design and implement a conservation program for customers at or above the 80th percentile for water use in each classification category that includes a best management practice for five categories: outreach, technical assistance and education; incentive; landscape; collaboration and coordination; operational.

Proposed Regulation

3. Would Require Urban Retail Water Suppliers to Comply with Annual Reporting Requirements.
 - Starting January 1, 2024*, and by January 1 every year thereafter, each urban retail water supplier is required to comply with Annual Reporting Requirements to the State Water Board that include their urban water use objective, the actual urban water use, documentation of the implementation of CII performance measures, and a description of progress made towards meeting the urban water use objective (§Water Code 10609.24).

*The State Board has acknowledged that the regulation will not be finalized by this date. Suppliers will have a modified reporting template for 2024. The State Board indicated verbally they will not take enforcement until the regulation is final.



Conservation Framework Rulemaking

What Happens Next?

Task	Start date	End Date
Start rulemaking (First public comment period)	August 18, 2023	October 17, 2023
Public Workshop	October 4, 2023	
Second comment period	TBD	TBD
Adoption hearing	TBD	
Submit to OAL	TBD	
Rulemaking becomes effective	TBD	



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