



State Water Efficiency Regulations

Summer 2018

Recent Changes to State Law

On May 31, 2018, Governor Brown signed two bills intended to “make water conservation a California way of life.” SB 606 (Hertzberg) and AB 1668 (Friedman) emphasize water efficiency. These laws outline a framework for water use requirements for local water suppliers like CHWD. These requirements will be developed by the State Water Resources Control Board and are not expected to go into effect until 2022.

The mandates will fall on water suppliers like CHWD. Regulations and water targets will be set for the District as a whole, not for individual customers. Once the requirements are set, each water supplier will work on implementation plans to determine how best to achieve the new water use target for its service area.

So, what do these Regulations mean for CHWD Customers?

Currently, not much will change for CHWD customers. Many details for implementing the new water use requirements will be determined over the next several years. The overall framework includes:

- A standard for indoor residential water use of 55 gallons per person per day beginning in 2022—dropping incrementally to 50 gallons in 2030. This standard will be measured across a water provider’s entire service area, it is not for individual water use.
- A standard for outdoor residential water use based upon a community’s climate and the amount of landscaped area.
- A standard for water loss due to leaks in water system pipes.

Living with California’s Current Water Efficiency Regulations

The water use targets established in SB 1606 and AB1668 may not affect CHWD customers for years to come. However, there are current water regulations that have been in effect since March 14, 2017. CHWD is at Stage 1- Normal Water Supply, and the current regulations are:

- Water shall be confined to the customer’s property. No run-off to streets or gutters is allowed.
- Free-flowing hoses for all uses are prohibited. Automatic shut-off devices shall be used.
- Leaking customer pipes or faulty sprinklers shall be repaired within five (5) working days or less if the problem is severe.
- All pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds shall be equipped with a recirculation pump.
- No washing streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, or buildings, except as necessary for health, esthetic or sanitary purposes.

CHWD Offers Water Efficiency Resources

- CHWD offers a free Water Efficiency Review to help customers use outdoor water as efficiently as possible. For more information about the Water Efficiency Reviews, please contact us at (916) 725-6873 or waterefficiency@chwd.org.
- Customers are encouraged to take advantage of the District’s water efficiency programs and rebates found at chwd.org/our-water/rebates.

Frequently Asked Questions



How will the new laws impact customers?

There are no immediate impacts to customers. Over the next several years, specific water use targets will be set for a water provider's overall service area (not on an individual basis). Once water provider-level targets are established in 2022 and implementation begins in 2023, water providers may choose to work with individual households and businesses to increase their water efficiency through available rebates, services and programs.



Will water providers be monitoring and evaluating individual water use as part of the new laws?

No. There is no requirement in the new laws that individual households must meet a specific target. The new laws provide a framework for setting targets, but those will be applied on a system-wide basis, and progress toward achieving targets will be reviewed on a system-wide basis.



Will it be illegal to take a shower and wash clothes in the same day, as some media have reported?

No. There is nothing in the laws that specifies when or how often a person may shower, do laundry, or use water for any other purpose. While the framework outlined in the laws does include a goal for individual water use of 55 gallons per person per day beginning in 2022, this applies on an overall system-wide basis (and not an individual basis).



How will the new laws impact businesses in California?

While the new laws do not set specific water use targets for business, they do outline a framework for creating new water efficiency performance measures for businesses—these are recommended actions for specific business sectors to improve water efficiency over time. Performance measures will be determined over the next several years, and the process will include opportunities for public input.



How hard will it be to meet the indoor target of 55 gallons per person per day?

It's important to note that the indoor water use target of 55 gallons per person per day is not a goal for individual water use, but will be measured across a water provider's entire service area. That said, water industry experts are projecting that many people are already meeting this target or do not have far to go.

The Alliance for Water Efficiency has an online water calculator that can estimate how much water a household uses indoors. You can find it at www.home-water-works.org/calculator. In the Sacramento region, individuals currently use about 66 gallons of water per person per day inside their homes.



Will individual residents and businesses be fined for not meeting water use targets?

The regulations and associated water use targets are required for the water provider as a whole (includes all customers) NOT at the individual resident or business level. Therefore, individuals and businesses will not be fined by the state for not meeting the water provider water use target. However, individuals and businesses may be fined for violating current local water provider water waste ordinances and guidelines.

