

Moving Toward Greater Water Efficiency

SB 606 and AB 1668



Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed two bills, SB 606 and AB 1668, to implement his directive of “Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life.” These two bills serve as the framework to develop plans and programs to help Californians achieve greater water efficiency.

How will this work? Once developed by the State, local water suppliers will work with their customers to help meet the new efficiency targets.

“I heard I am limited to 55 gallons of water use per day at my home. Is this true?”

No, and no action is currently required. This effort is a multi-year development process that will result in both indoor and outdoor water use standards that will be averaged for each water supplier. Only one target goal has been set thus far—indoor use. The goal is to move Californians to use an average of 55 gallons per person per day now through January 2025, and to continue to decrease usage to 50 gallons per person per day by 2030.

Water providers will not be monitoring and evaluating individual household’s indoor water use. Instead, the provider will monitor water use systemwide.

Outdoor standards will be based on population, landscape use, housing, and climate factors. Fines will be based on continuous, substantial, and negligent water waste.



What's under development...

Water Use Standards Under Development

- The **outdoor water use standard** will be based on land cover, climate, and other factors determined by the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The SWRCB will adopt the outdoor standard by **June 2022**.
- The **water leaks standard** will be set by the SWRCB pursuant to prior legislation (SB 555, 2015) by **July 2020**.
- Performance measures for **Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial (CII) water use standards** will be completed by October 2021. The SWRCB will adopt the CII performance measures by **June 2022**.
- **Special considerations** could include swamp coolers or other water uses that may be used to calculate the aggregate standard for each retail water supplier.

What about Urban Water Suppliers?

Will there be specific requirements?

- The SWRCB will be developing water use standards by regulation no later than **June 30, 2022**, following a full and robust public and stakeholder process.
- Each urban retail water agency (water supplier) will calculate its own target based on the water needed in its service area. This will occur annually, beginning in **November 2023**.
- Beginning in 2023, the SWRCB may issue informational orders to urban water suppliers that do not meet their water use objective. Conservation orders could begin in **2025**.

How can I help or receive more information?

The Mojave Water Agency is working with the State to help develop the remaining standards to ensure the High Desert region's needs are being considered including allowances for swamp coolers and high evaporation rates. For more information, contact Nicholas Schneider, Conservation and Forecast Manager at 760.946.7038, or visit the following websites: www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues or www.hdawac.org