

New State Regulation for Making Conservation a California Way of Life

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Making Conservation a California Way of Life regulation?

The State Water Resources Control Board's proposed regulation is intended to achieve long-term water use efficiency by having urban retail water suppliers achieve the following:

- Meet an agency-specific objective in gallons per capita per day that will be calculated using indoor and outdoor water use, water loss and applicable variances and/or bonus incentives. Each agencies' objective also considers unique local service characteristics (e.g. population, climate, etc.).
- Implement commercial, industrial, and institutional performance measures such as banning the irrigation of non-functional turf.
- Submit annual reporting.

How will the new regulation impact residents and business owners?

There are no immediate impacts. The water use targets will be set for our entire service area, not for individual houses or businesses. Once the regulation is finalized Apple Valley Heights County Water District will continue to work with our customers on water savings that may be needed to meet the new regulations. This may include water savings through rebates, turf replacement programs and more.

Do I need to go back to saving water as if we were in a drought?

No, the regulation is meant to create long-term targets to increase water use efficiency not extreme short-term measures that may be implemented during a drought.

Is it going to be illegal to shower and wash clothes at the same time?

No, there are no laws that dictate how or when you shower and do laundry. There will be broad goals set for individual indoor water usage per day. However, that is applied to our overall water system and not individual households or people. The current indoor water usage standard continues to be 55 gallons per person per day (gpcd). In January 2025, the standard will be reduced to 47 gpcd. Apple Valley Heights County Water District's customers are currently using 65 gpcd.

Why is the state adopting a regulation?

The regulation is to better prepare California for its intense weather extremes that swing from wet weather to very dry periods. As the past few years have shown, these weather patterns have become normal. This regulation is one step towards ensuring that water suppliers throughout the state are always prepared to deliver safe water and may lessen the need to implement extreme emergency measures during droughts.