

Water Use Efficiency Legislation

How does it affect Rancho California Water District Customers?



New Legislation

On May 31, 2018 Governor Brown signed two bills which build on the ongoing efforts to “make water conservation a California way of life.” Senate Bill 606 (Hertzberg) and Assembly Bill 1668 (Friedman) emphasize efficiency and stretching existing water supplies.

The legislation does **NOT** impose individual mandates for homeowners or businesses!

The Legislation:

- Calls for new standards for indoor and outdoor use and water lost due to leaks
- Each water agency will calculate its own water needed based on individual indoor and outdoor budgets for residential and commercial customers by November 2023
- The indoor standard is 55 gallons per person per day (same as Rancho California Water District’s current standard). The standard will decrease to 50 gallons per person per day by 2030
- The outdoor standard will be based on land cover, climate and other factors (same as Rancho California Water District’s current standard)
- The Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board will work collaboratively to define performance measures for Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional customers by October 2021 and adopt the standards by June 2022
- Requires agencies to update their Urban Water Management Plans
- Agricultural water users will be required to expand their Agricultural Water Management Plans
- Starting in 2027, local water suppliers’ failure to comply with the new standards could result in fines of \$1,000 per day during the non-drought years, and \$10,000 per day during declared drought emergencies. The water agencies – not individual ratepayers – would be responsible for the fine.



Rancho California Water District already has budget based tiered rates for its customers that meet the standards in the legislation. The District also has an Urban Water Management Plan that it will update according to the legislation. District staff will work with the Department of Water Resources on the development of Commercial standards.

The new legislation does NOT affect our customers individually!