



AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS 14.22.010–14.22.080 OF THE RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE UPDATING THE WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE TO COMPLY WITH ASSEMBLY BILL 1572

Riverside Public Utilities – Strategic Initiatives

Public Utilities
July 27, 2026

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

1. California continues to advance statewide water conservation efforts in response to recurring droughts and climate change impacts on water supplies
2. Assembly Bill 1572 signed into law on October 13, 2023, established a phased statewide prohibition on the use of potable water to irrigate nonfunctional turf (NFT) on commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) properties, as well as common areas of HOAs



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WHAT IS NFT?

Nonfunctional turf (NFT) is ornamental grass that serves no functional purpose beyond aesthetics

Examples



Business park lawns



Road medians and traffic islands



Parking lot landscaping



Images credit: San Jose Water Company³

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AB 1572 REQUIREMENTS

1. Potable water use for nonfunctional turf (NFT) is considered wasteful and unsustainable
2. By January 1, 2027, the City (including RPU) must
 - a. Stop using potable water for the irrigation of NFT on all its properties,
 - b. Revise policies or adopt an ordinance consistent with AB 1572 requirements, and
 - c. Communicate changes to customers
3. Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII) property owners with >5,000 sq. ft. of irrigated area must self-certify compliance with the State Water Board beginning 2030
 - a. Exemptions: tree irrigation, privately owned public parks, cemeteries, and health/safety needs
4. Required outreach by RPU to customers is already underway



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IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

AB 1572 Phased Implementation



NonFunctionalTurfCA.org

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board of Public Utilities recommend that the City Council:

1. Introduce an ordinance of the City of Riverside amending Sections 14.22.010 through 14.22.080 of the Riverside Municipal Code to update the City's Water Conservation Ordinance to comply with the requirements of Assembly Bill 1572 and ensure compliance with California Water Code § 10608.14; and
2. Adopt the ordinance at a subsequent City Council meeting following the first reading.



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