

# “MAKING CONSERVATION A CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE” REGULATION

## Riverside Public Utilities

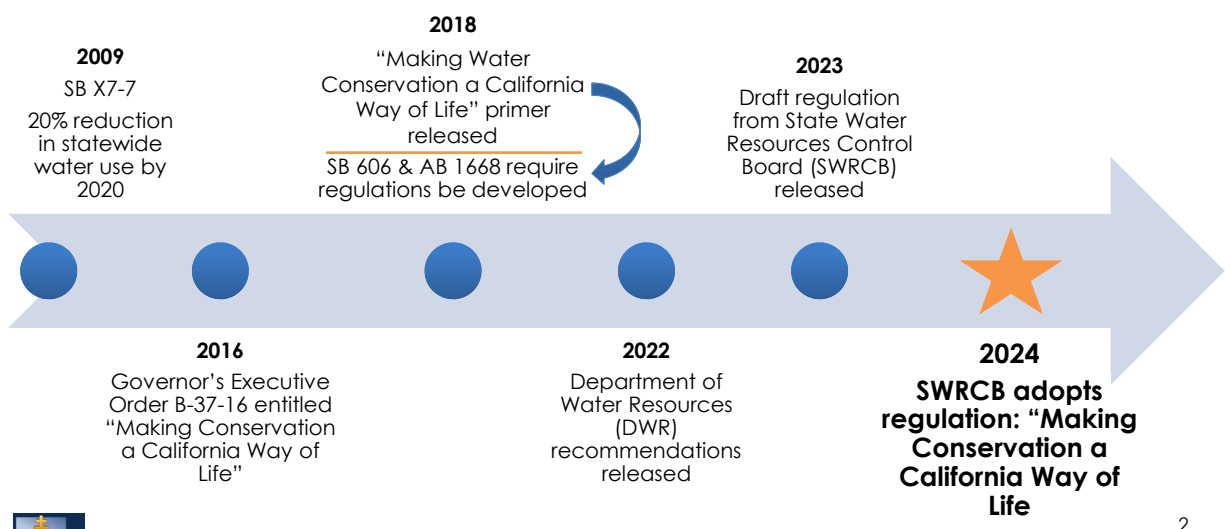
### Board of Public Utilities

March 24, 2025

RiversideCA.gov

1

## Legislative History



RiversideCA.gov

2

2

## Goals of the Regulation

### “Making Conservation a California Way of Life”

1. Establish a regulatory framework for achieving long-term water use efficiency
2. Address the challenges posed by climate change and increasing frequency and severity of droughts
3. Change previous one size-fits-all approach to water management
4. Tailor standards to each water suppliers by including local factors such as climate, population, and landscaped areas



3

RiversideCA.gov

3

## Four Major Components of Compliance



A supplier-specific **Urban Water Use Objective**



Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) **Performance Measures**



**Water Loss** Performance Standard



Annual **Reporting**

Compliance will require coordination throughout the Water Utility

All Divisions potentially affected




4

RiversideCA.gov

4


## Component 1: Urban Water Use Objective

Providers cannot exceed the **SUM** of the Standards




Indoor Residential Water Budget

+




Outdoor Residential Water Budget

+




CII\*-DIM Outdoor Water Budget

+




Water Loss Budget

+



Adjustments (If applicable)  
*Variances, Temporary Provisions, and/or Bonus Incentive*

\* Agriculture and indoor CII not part of objective, though indoor CII is covered by Performance Measures



5
RiversideCA.gov

5

## Component 1: Usage Standards Decline

1. Variances and Temporary Provisions can be submitted for approval
2. **Residential Indoor Water Use Standards** (Immediate decline)
  - a. Set by Senate Bill 1157 (2022)

	Until Dec. 31, 2024	2025 through 2029	2030 and beyond
<b>Gallons/person/day</b>	55	47	42


6
RiversideCA.gov

6

# Component 1: Usage Standards Decline

## 1. Residential Outdoor Water Use Standards

a. Set in the Regulation

	Through June 30, 2035	July 1, 2035 – June 30, 2040	July 1, 2040 and on
<b>Landscape Efficiency Factor</b>	0.8	0.63	0.55
<b>Special Landscape areas (SLA)</b>	1.0	1.0	1.0
<b>Newly Constructed Landscapes</b>	0.55	0.55	0.55

\*SLA – area for pools/spas, edible plants, using recycled water

Outdoor Residential Water Use Standard =

Suppliers' Unique Climate X Amount of Landscape Area X Landscape Efficiency Factor



7

RiversideCA.gov

7

## Examples of Performance Standards in Landscapes

**0.4:**  
A low water use turf alternative ground cover irrigated with overhead sprays, i.e., a low water-using plant factor (0.3) divided by overhead spray IE (0.75)---  
 $0.3/0.75 = 0.4$

**0.5:**  
Quarter of the outdoor space is warm season grass well-irrigated with rotors and the remainder is a mix of medium and low water using plants irrigated with pressure compensating drip.  
 $(0.6/0.7)*0.25 + (0.3/0.8)*0.75 = 0.5$

**0.97:**  
Warm season grass well-irrigated with lawn sprinklers  
 $0.6/0.62 = 0.97$

**0.34:**  
Native plant garden on drip and micro spray irrigation with majority low and very low water using plants and a few medium water using plants  
 $(0.6/0.8)*0.15 + (0.3/0.8)*0.5 + (0.1/0.8)*0.35 = 0.34$

**0.55:**  
Yard is majority low water using plants (PF = 0.3) irrigated with drip (IE = 0.8), a few fruit trees (PF = 0.5) with drip irrigation (IE = 0.8), and a small patch of warm season grass (PF = 0.6) with overhead sprays (IE = 0.75).  
 $(0.3/0.8)*0.5 + (0.5/0.8)*0.2 + (0.6/0.75)*0.3 = 0.55$

**0.73:**  
Warm season grass moderately irrigated with efficient rotors  
 $0.55/0.75 = 0.73$

**1.14:**  
Cool season grass moderately well-irrigated (e.g., some maintenance, irrigation schedule) with rotors  
 $0.8/0.7 = 1.14$

**1.4:**  
Warm season grass inefficiently irrigated (e.g., not properly tuned, running too long) with lawn sprinklers  
 $0.6/0.43 = 1.4$

Credit: California Water Boards



RiversideCA.gov

8

## Component 1: Usage Standards Decline

### 1. Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Customers with Dedicated Irrigation Meters (DIMs)

- a. Outdoor standards: No efficiency adjustments through June 30, 2028
- b. Applied to RPU's total CII DIM landscaped areas, not to individual parcels

	July 1, 2028 – June 30, 2035	July 1, 2035 – June 30, 2040	July 1, 2040 – beyond
<b>Landscape Efficiency Factor</b>	0.8	0.63	0.45
<b>Special Landscape areas</b>	1.0	1.0	1.0
<b>Newly Constructed Landscapes</b>	0.45	0.45	0.45

\*SLA – area for pools/spas, edible plants, using recycled water, ponds and lakes receiving supplemental water for sustaining wildlife, recreation, or public benefit, plant collections, public swimming pools & recreation water features, cemeteries built before 2015

9



## Component 2: CII Performance Measures

1. Customer Water Use Classification for CII
2. Best Management Practices (BMPs)
3. Mixed Use Meter Conversion or Implementation of other technologies/programs



10



## Component 2: CII Best Management Practices

RPU must implement actions in each of the following categories for CII customers:

1. **Outreach, technical assistance, and education**
2. **Incentives** such as rebates, certifications, support for technologies that enable customers to manage water use, etc.
3. **Landscape practices/incentives** that support conservation in outdoor water use
4. **Collaboration and coordination with various entities** to implement conservation programming and education
5. **Operational changes within the Utility** such as deploying smart meters and data tracking



11

RiversideCA.gov

11

## Component 3: Water Loss Performance Standard



1. The maximum allowable water loss due to leaks in distribution system pipes measured in gallons per connection per day for each water system



2. Can be enforced independently under a separate regulation (SB 555)

3. RPU's water loss standard is 60.9 gallons per connection per day



12

RiversideCA.gov

12

## Component 4: Reporting and Compliance



1. All Urban Retail Water Suppliers must submit annual reporting by Jan. 1, 2025, and every Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> thereafter:
  - a) Water Supplier's Objective
  - b) Actual water use for regulated uses
  - c) CII performance measures reporting
  - d) Water loss



2. Objective will be updated annually to account for new data (e.g. change in population, newly constructed landscapes, weather)
3. Effective Jan. 1, 2027, compliance with Objective must be demonstrated



13

RiversideCA.gov

13

## Enforcement



**State Water  
Resources  
Control Board**

1. State Water Resources Control Board may issue notices or conservation orders and may impose fines of \$1,000 to \$10,000 per day
2. Orders may include:
  - a. Referrals to DWR for technical assistance
  - b. Requirements for education and customer outreach
  - c. Other efforts to help urban water suppliers meet their Objectives



14

RiversideCA.gov

14

## Riverside Compliance Readiness

1. RPU has been following the regulation since 2018
2. Compliance scenarios for meeting the water use objective have been developed
  - a. **Through 2035: Projected to comply\*** based on forecasted water usage and continued implementation of current conservation rebates and education programming
  - b. **After 2035: Projected to exceed 3% to 7% of the water budget** based on forecast water usage, current programming but without additional conservation efforts or outreach campaign

\*Assuming RPU maintains current programming – Water Conservation Surcharge funding will run out prior to this date



15

RiversideCA.gov

15

## Programs to Support Compliance

1. Residential customers: Programming is necessary to promote efficient indoor and outdoor water use
2. CII – Dedicated Irrigation Meters (DIMs)
  - a) Expand incentive programs that target inefficient water users
3. CII – Mixed Use Meters (MUMs)
  - a) Identify and implement technology/programs to help customers use water efficiently indoors and outdoors
  - b) Classify customers and design programs to assist in achieving water savings
- 4. Required to maintain water conservation programming beyond 2040**



16

RiversideCA.gov

16



# Strategic Plan Alignment



## Strategic Priority 4 – Environmental Stewardship

**Goal 4.2** – Sustainability manage local water resources to maximize reliability and advance water reuse to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable water to our community



## Strategic Priority 5 – High Performing Government

**Goal 5.2** – Utilize technology, data, and process improvement strategies to increase efficiencies, guide decision making, and ensure services are accessible and distributed equitably throughout all geographic areas of the City

### Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Equity



Fiscal Responsibility



Innovation



Sustainability & Resiliency



17

RiversideCA.gov

17

# Recommendation

That the Board of Public Utilities receive an update on the State Water Resources Control Board's adoption of "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" regulation.



18

RiversideCA.gov

18