



AWE UPDATE

CalWEP Spring Plenary. March 9, 2022



Alliance
for Water
Efficiency



WHAT'S NEW AT AWE?

- New Director of Programs hired: Liesel Hans
- Clover Rogers (Jarupa Community Services Dist.) joined AWE's board
- New research project launched: Consumer Products Water Savings Guidance Document (P&G, Bonneville Env'l Foundation)
- New Learning Landscapes lesson plan released (soils)
- Developing a DEIJ policy and plan (Summer 2022 completion)
- Developing new 2023-25 Strategic Plan (EOY completion)
- Presented at:
 - Canadian Water Works Assn. National Water and Wastewater Conference webinar series (Water Conservation Tracking Tool)
 - CalWEP Winter Plenary (AWE Update)
 - Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium (Cooling Tower Project)
 - Midwest Energy Solutions Conference (Energy-Water Nexus)
 - Held Rates Workshop w/Central Utah Water Conservancy Dist.



INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

- Infrastructure bill became law with \$400M (over 5 years) in new funding for western states WaterSmart Grants
- Slim chance for additional grant funding in Build Back Better Act (working w/ Rep. McNerney - CA)
- Priority for 2022 is directing new \$\$ to good water efficiency projects



SELECT INFRASTRUCTURE BILL PROGRAMS IN WHICH WATER EFFICIENCY/CONSERVATION ARE ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- **WaterSmart grants**
 - \$400 million over 5 years; doubles annual WaterSmart grant funding
 - AWE webinar with U.S. Bureau of Recreation 3/16
- **Midsize and Large Drinking Water System (more than 10,000 people) Resilience and Sustainability Program (EPA)**
\$250M over 5 years. Authorized but not appropriated
- **Small Drinking Water System (less than 10,000 people) Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program (EPA)**
 - Reauthorized at \$125 million over five years. Authorized but not appropriated
 - Federal share at least 90%
- **Future of Industry Program (DOE).** Water and wastewater treatment facilities are now eligible entities for funding. Also makes “water efficiency” an eligible expense.
 - Energy efficiency improvements
 - \$550 million over 5 years.
- **EPA Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program** (natural disasters, cybersecurity)
 - \$125M over 5 years; grants to publicly owned treatment works
- **Small Publicly Owned Treatment Works Efficiency Grant Program (EPA).** Grants for the replacement or repair of equipment that improves water or energy efficiency, as identified in an efficiency audit.
- **Clean Water SRF (\$11.7B) and Drinking Water SRF (\$11.7B)**
 - Water efficiency an eligible expense



BUILD BACK BETTER ACT: TAX-FREE REBATES

Build Back Better Act Passes U.S. House with language to Make Water Conservation Rebates Tax-Free



September 29, 2021

Chairman Richard E. Neal
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Chairman Mike Thompson
Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures
268 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Chairman Thompson:

We write to thank you for including Section 136305 in the Ways and Means Committee portion of the *Build Back Better Act*.

As you know, this provision of your bill is based on the Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act and Sec. 305 of the GREEN Act. This is an important tax policy change that would end federal taxes on utility rebates provided to homeowners and other property owners who conserve water or improve stormwater or wastewater management. In short, when enacted into law, this will result in the federal government treating water conservation rebates the same as energy conservation rebates, which were exempted from federal

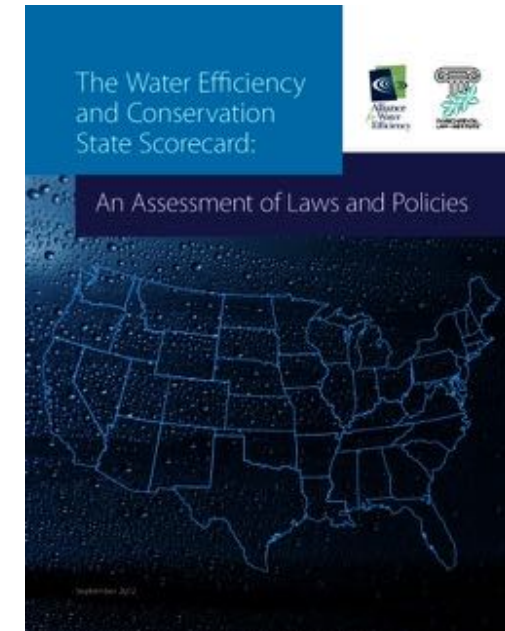
DEPT. OF ENERGY SIDES WITH AWE IN REVERSING WEAKENED WATER EFFICIENCY STANDARDS: NEW RULES FINALIZED

- AWE lawsuit played a key role
- 9/14/21: AWE organizes supportive comments from 35 organizations on showerhead proposal
- 10/12/21: AWE submits comments on washer/dryer rule
- **DOE finalized rules 12/21 (showerheads) and 1/22 (clothes washers, dishwashers)**
- **Deadline for legal challenge of showerhead rule has passed**
- **Thanks to Keith Bradley, AWE's pro bono attorney.**



2022 STATE WATER EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY SCORECARD

- New survey questions
 - Does the state provide funding for customer financial assistance?
 - Does the state limit/prohibit the use of rate revenues for customer financial assistance?
 - Can energy utilities earn credit for water efficiency investments?
 - Does the state require climate change-related plans, reports, or other actions of water and/or wastewater providers?
 - Provide technical assistance? Funding?
 - Does the state require water utilities to incorporate land use considerations into their water plans?
 - Are community land use plans required to incorporate water utility plans?
 - Is state funding or other assistance available to support coordination between water utilities/plans and land use planners/plans?
- PAC comprised of state regulatory officials reviewed survey
 - Other stakeholders also contributed
- Surveys have been sent to states
- Environmental Law Institute to review/verify answers
- Goal is to release Scorecard Fall/Winter 2022



AWE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

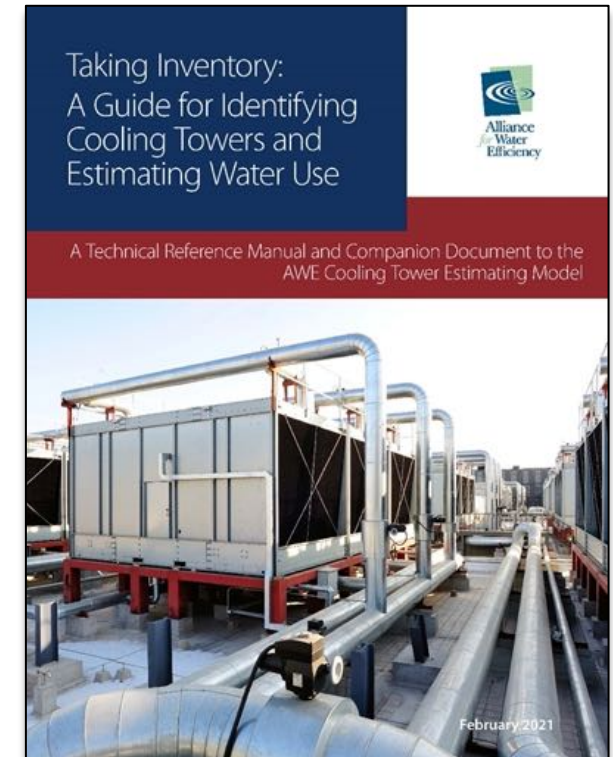
Meter Flow Restrictor Workgroup

- Devices that severely limit the flow of water without stopping the flow completely.
- Water agencies deploy a variety of strategies, including customer financial assistance, to limit non-payment of bills, with water shut-offs typically being the last-resort.
- Proponents of meter flow restrictors view them as a more humane alternative to traditional water shutoffs.
- Shut-off moratoria have increased interest in this tool
- Investigated potential unintended consequences
 - Very little research/data available
- Two deliverables available to AWE Members
 - Matrix of nonpayment policies for 83 water agencies and observations on potential unintended consequences for appliances/plumbing
 - Document outlining background literature sources
 - <https://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/resources/topic/meter-flow-restrictors>



COOLING TOWER TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT

- Cooling Tower Estimating Model (CTEM) and Guide for Identifying Cooling Towers Released February 24.
- Task 4: *Determine the Conservation Potential for Improvements to Existing Cooling Tower Systems.*
 - Water Quality Helper tool incorporated into CTEM; released 2/22. Provides guidance on how to improve efficiency by altering water quality parameters
- Task 5: *Determine Water Savings Potential of Implementing Alternative Cooling Technologies.*
 - Updated document and accompanying model completed 2/22.
- <https://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/resources/topic/awe-cooling-technology-study>



COOLING TOWER STUDY: NEXT STEPS

1. Moving Forward with the Final Deliverables, to be released by Spring/Summer of 2022:
 - a) "How To" guide on setting up a cooling tower water efficiency program
 - b) Summary of cooling tower water efficiency strategies and how to select what is optimal for a given service area based on water quality and climate
 - c) Cooling tower audit assessment form (tool for assessing individual cooling towers)
 - d) Email templates to connect with different people in the industry for outreach and follow up
 - e) A return-on-investment calculator to evaluate efficiency improvements for individual towers



WATER AFFORDABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR LONG BEACH, CA

- AWE worked with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Long Beach Water
- Evaluated the impact of a rate restructure on water affordability
- Evaluated conservation's role in lowering bills and future options
- Presented at WSI
- **Report released 2/17/22; webinar 2/23/22**
- **Direct-install pilot project for disadvantaged households is planned**
 - **Donations from Kohler and Whirlpool**
 - **Evaluation component**



Long Beach Water

2022 WEBINARS, ROUNDTABLES AND REGIONAL MEMBER MEETINGS

Webinars

- **February 23** – An Assessment of Water Affordability in Long Beach
- **March 2** – AWE/EPA WaterSense Outdoor Water Webinar – The Hunt for Water-Efficient Turfgrass
- **March 16** – Accessing Federal Funds for Water Efficiency (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)
- **March 29** – Water and Planning Network – Integrating Land Use and Water Management: Nationwide Planning and Practice

Roundtable Discussion

- **April 6/7** – Strategies for delivering water conservation programs to disadvantaged households

2022 WEBINARS, ROUNDTABLES AND REGIONAL MEMBER MEETINGS

Regional Member Meetings

- Tuesday May 10 - Southeast
 - Tuesday May 15 - Canada
 - Tuesday May 24 - Southwest
 - Tuesday June 7- Northwest
 - Wednesday June 14 - Great Lakes
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- Planning committees developing content
 - 2 hours each, with an AWE update, a presentation/panel, and peer-to-peer discussion time.
 - Similar to CalWEP's successful quarterly Plenary meetings.

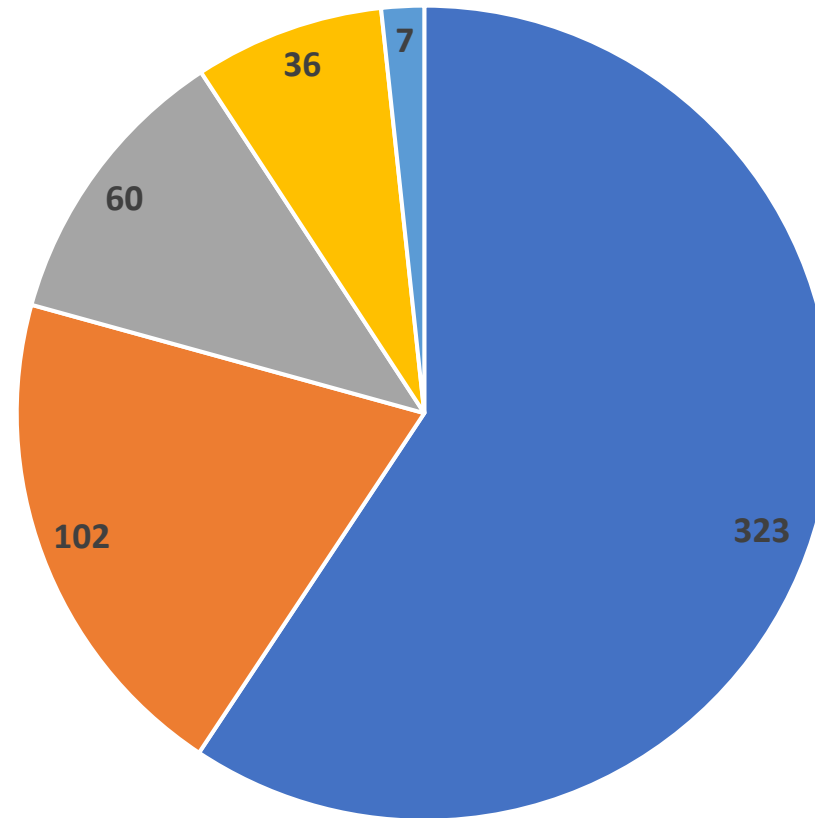


UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Houston Water Affordability Analysis and Product Replacements
- Regional Water Authority (CA)/Bonneville Foundation: CII Landscape Upgrades

**528 TOTAL
MEMBERS**
AS OF 12/31/2021

Number of Members



■ Water Supplier ■ Business & Industry ■ Affiliates ■ Government ■ Individuals

A SINGULAR VOICE AND A PLATFORM FOR
WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND WATER
CONSERVATION, BRINGING A CRITICAL
PERSPECTIVE TO AN INCREASINGLY THIRSTY
NORTH AMERICA.



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Efficiency

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