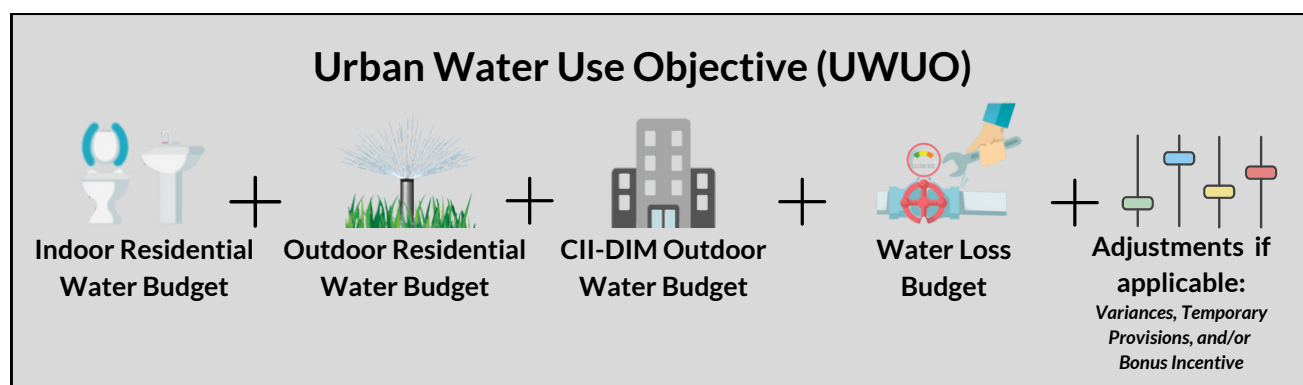


Making Conservation a California Way of Life

NOTE: DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING STATE WATER BOARD RULEMAKING

Overview

SB 606 and AB 1668, signed in 2018 and referred to as the Long-Term Framework legislation, are intended to “Make Conservation a California Way of Life.” In total, three water use standards (indoor residential, outdoor residential and commercial, industrial and institutional dedicated irrigation meter (CII-DIM)), one water loss standard, and a variety of adjustments are used to calculate each urban water supplier’s overall budget. The sum of these is known as an **Urban Water Use Objective (UWUO)**.

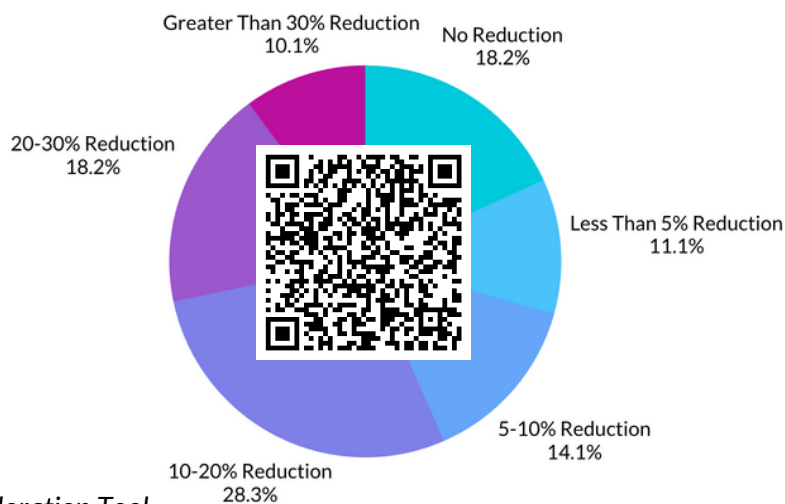


Adjustments to an UWUO can be made via variances, temporary provisions, and/or a bonus incentive for potable reuse, where applicable per supplier. A variance or temporary provision must receive prior approval by submitting a request to the State Water Board.

In addition to the UWUO, every urban supplier will need to comply with a set of CII performance measures. These performance measures are meant to capture water used indoor at CII sites, and for outdoor CII landscapes that do not have dedicated irrigation meters. Even if you meet your UWUO, you will still need comply with the CII Performance Measures!

Provisional Data

In late August 2023, the State Water Board released *provisional* data for every urban water supplier in the state used for their Water Use Objective Exploration Tool. The chart to the right shows projections for reductions needed by water suppliers in 2035 based on the State’s provisional data. (Note the provisional data does not include potential variances that suppliers may be able to utilize to adjust their UWUO.)



Use the QR code to go to the Water Use Objective Exploration Tool.

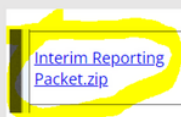
Reporting Requirements

As proposed in the State Water Board draft regulation, urban retail suppliers must calculate and comply with their UWUO by January 1, 2025, and every January 1st thereafter. However, included in statute (SB 606/AB 1668), suppliers are required to submit an annual report to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) no later than January 1, 2024 (even though the regulation will not be finalized before then). Reporting to the State Water Board is proposed as an addition in the draft regulation beginning January 1, 2025. The State Water Board proposed reporting includes that suppliers use fiscal year water use data.

Suppliers that exceed their UWUO may be required by the State to enact policies and programs to achieve water savings. Additional enforcement measures include fines directly to the supplier no sooner than November 1, 2027.

Tips for interim reporting to DWR January 1, 2024:

Download the DWR interim reporting spreadsheet tool:



Contains the Interim Annual Water Use Reporting template for submitting your annual urban water use objective report. NOTE: This is a tool to assist suppliers with defensibly meeting the statutory reporting requirements and its use is not required by DWR. The State Water Board has not completed the rulemaking process for "Making Conservation a California Way of Life". 3621 KB



In all reports add a clause such as:

"Based on readily available data, to be considered preliminary submission and may require revision in the future."

- 1. Estimate your Water Use Objective:** Estimate this value, use the SWRCB objective explorer tool.
- 2. Report on actual water use:** Use your most recent electronic annual report (eAR) submission.
- 3. Document CII performance measures:** Provide a description of CII activities.
- 4. Describe progress made towards meeting the water use objective:** Describe how your agency improves water use efficiency. Use your UWMP or conservation and water shortage plans.

Preparing for Implementation

Even while the water community works its way through the rulemaking process, water suppliers must start preparing for implementation now. The State Water Board anticipates the regulation will become effective January 1, 2025. Below are some questions you and your staff can begin exploring to ensure you are ready to meet the requirements.

- 1. Become familiar with the data required to calculate your objective.** This includes electronic annual reports, residential landscape area measurement provided by DWR, CIMIS and Cal-SIMETAW, dedicated irrigation meters, disclosable buildings and more.
- 2. Evaluate appropriate staff and funding needs** for implementation, compliance, and reporting.
- 3. Don't wait!** Reach out to your staff and get the conversation going.