

Subject: Supporting CII Water Conservation Through a Statewide BMP Database

Dear CalWEP Members,

The California Water Efficiency Partnership is seeking your support for an important and timely initiative: the development of a comprehensive **Statewide Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Best Management Practice (CII BMP) Database** to support statewide compliance with California's Making Conservation a California Way of Life framework under SB 606 and AB 1668.

SB 606 and AB 1668 represent a fundamental shift in how CII water use is evaluated and managed across California. Urban water suppliers will now be required to classify CII customers, identify high water users, and implement BMPs across five required categories while documenting defensible water savings for state reporting. With compliance deadlines years away, we have a valuable opportunity to create a centralized, vetted repository of CII BMPs that standardizes savings assumptions, confidence levels, and implementation guidance across agencies. Without a shared solution, water suppliers risk inconsistent reporting, duplicated consultant costs, and increased regulatory uncertainty.

Project Overview: This project will equip CalWEP member agencies with a searchable, web-based library of CII BMPs to help them meet the Making Conservation a California Way of Life performance measure requirements. The database will include:

- **40+ documented CII conservation programs** spanning rebates, audits, technical assistance, landscape BMPs, and operational programs (aligned with the five state-required BMP categories)
- **Estimated water savings** with assigned confidence levels, validation status, and supporting technical references to strengthen defensibility under state reporting requirements
- **A member-facing online platform** with filterable, searchable BMP entries that agencies can use to build program portfolios tailored to their customer types, staffing capacity, and regulatory requirements

Budget & Timeline: We are requesting member support to fund this project, with a total estimated cost of **\$100,000**. Preliminary work is underway, with the database expected to launch in Winter 2026.

Why This Project Matters:

The CII sector represents a diverse and complex customer group with varying customer types and water use profiles. While many water agencies operate CII conservation programs (e.g., rebates, audits, technical assistance), there is no centralized, vetted source that catalogs program details, memorializes water savings assumptions, and evaluates real-world implementation examples.

This project will fill that gap by creating a CalWEP member-facing, searchable, web-based library of CII BMPs that CalWEP member agencies can use to:

- Identify effective, transferable CII conservation programs

- Understand the staffing resource and program implementation cost considerations associated with each conservation program
- Access savings assumptions vetted by subject matter experts
- Build “portfolios” or a catalogue of water conservation program offerings aligned with their agency’s goals, customer types, staffing considerations, and more

We invite you to join us in supporting this important work. If your agency is able to contribute financially to the development of the CII BMP Database, please contact Tia@calwep.org.

Thank you for your partnership and leadership.

Sincerely,



Tia Fleming
Executive Director
California Water Efficiency Partnership

Attachment: CII BMP Database Scope of Work

CII BMP Database

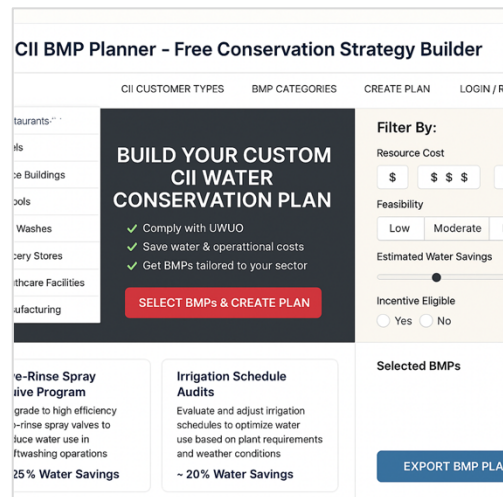
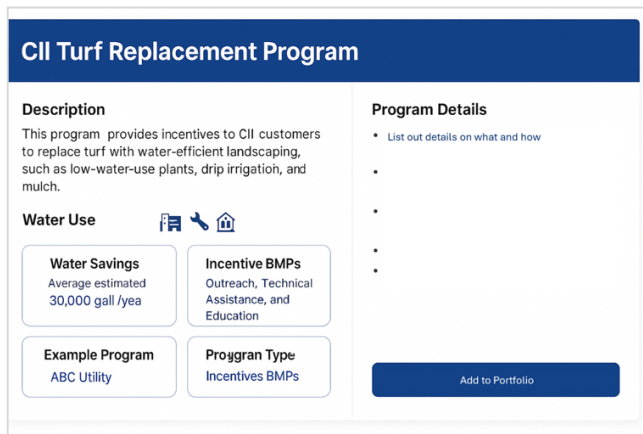
Scope of Work

Task 1: Building the Online Database

Task 1 will design and build the online system that houses the CII BMP Database, creating the technical foundation for structured storage, organization, and public access to best management practice content. This includes development of a searchable, filterable interface; standardized data fields for BMP entries; backend architecture to support consistent formatting and future updates; and user functionality that allows agencies to easily locate, compare, and download BMP information. The system will be built for scalability, accessibility, and long-term maintenance, ensuring the database can evolve as new practices, methodologies, and documentation standards emerge.

Sample Website Database Layout (Conceptual Mockups)

The following are conceptual graphics to help visualize the structure of the proposed CII BMP Database. These include ideas for user interface layout, filtering, and program detail views.



Task 2: Content Development

Task 2 focuses on development of the CII BMP content that will populate the online database. Through a competitive RFP process published on February 4, CalWEP is soliciting qualified consultants to research, document, and standardize Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional best management practices, including clear descriptions, implementation guidance, documented water savings methodologies, assumptions, and supporting technical references.

Proposals are due March 13. Deliverables will include fully developed BMP entries formatted to align with the database structure, defensible water savings documentation, and consistent technical narratives that agencies can rely on for program design and reporting. Task 2 ensures the database is not only functional, but populated with high-quality, implementable, and technically sound conservation practices.

Over 40 programs are expected to be received through this effort.

For Each Program, the Consultant Shall Document:

- Goal category (1 of 5 state-aligned BMP categories):
 - Outreach, Technical Assistance, and Education
 - Incentive BMPs
 - Landscape BMPs
 - Collaboration and Coordination BMPs
 - Operational BMPs
- Subcategory tags, consistent with Making Conservation a California Way of Life guidance
- Program type per goal category (e.g., audit, rebate, technical assistance, ordinance, direct install)
- CII customer type(s) served (using the 22 defined categories, example - highlighting applicable to all CII customers or specific to one CII customer like hotels)
- Resource requirements (staff effort, funding level, equipment, technical support, estimated program costs) and how long water savings may take to achieve or stop
- Implementation support requirements (e.g., outreach, field staff, external consultants)
- Categorize each program with a water savings tier (Low, Moderate, High — using a standard rubric or defined assumptions)
- Estimated water savings (as published or calculated)
- Assign a confidence level or validation status (e.g., peer-reviewed study, internal agency evaluation, unverified claim)
- Date the savings estimate was calculated
- Relevancy assessment – how relevant is the savings number and BMP today? (e.g., still applicable, outdated, technology shifted)
- Factors that affect water savings, if available (e.g., operating hours, climate zone, business type)
- URL or source citation where the savings value and program were published

Project Timeline (subject to change)

Phase	Timeline	Key Deliverables
Planning & Framework	March - April 2026	Work plan, criteria framework, kickoff meeting
Research & Data Collection	April - July 2026	40+ BMPs documented with key metrics
Database Development	April - July 2026	Draft framework, entry templates, beta database
Water Savings	April - August 2026	Identify and validate water savings metrics for common programs.
Finalization & Launch	August - November 2026	Published database, user guide, training webinar

Budget

The total expected budget of this project is \$100,000

- **Task 1: Online Database Infrastructure (\$15,000)**
Funding will support development of the structured, searchable online platform that houses the BMP content and ensures accessibility, standardization, and long-term usability.
- **Task 2: Content Development & Water Savings Documentation (\$80,000)**
The majority of funding is allocated to technical research and water savings validation. This reflects the complexity of documenting defensible savings methodologies, assigning confidence levels, and ensuring alignment with Urban Water Use Objective reporting requirements. The integrity of the database depends on rigorous, standardized documentation.
- **Launch & Implementation Support (\$5,000)**
This supports training, user guidance materials, and rollout to ensure adoption by member agencies.

Expected Outcomes and Impact

The CII BMP Database will provide immediate technical infrastructure for CalWEP member agencies to meet performance measure requirements under the Making Conservation a California Way of Life framework. Upon launch, agencies will have access to a standardized, defensible library of over 40 CII conservation programs, including documented savings methodologies, implementation guidance, and confidence assessments.

In the near term, this will reduce duplicative consultant research, shorten program development timelines, and improve consistency in how water savings are calculated and described in state reporting.

Over time, the database will support greater statewide alignment in BMP implementation, reduce variability in reported savings assumptions for similar programs, and strengthen the defensibility of conservation performance claims under regulatory review.

By investing in shared database infrastructure now, the project reduces long-term compliance costs, mitigates methodological fragmentation, and improves the reliability of CII conservation outcomes across California.