

## **California Urban Water Landscape Best Management Practice**

### **LANDSCAPE (formerly BMP 5)**

Irrigation accounts for a large portion of urban water use in California. Irrigation water use varies dramatically depending on water pricing and availability, plant choice, geographic locations, seasonal conditions, and the level of commitment to sound water efficiency practices. The goal of this BMP is that irrigators, with assistance from signatories, will achieve a higher level of water use efficiency consistent with the actual irrigation needs of the plant materials. Reaching this goal would reduce overall demands for water, reduce demands during the peak summer months, and still result in a healthy and vibrant landscape for California.

#### **A. Implementation**

Agencies shall provide non-residential customers with support and incentives to improve their landscape water use efficiency. Credit for prior activities, as reported through the BMP database, will be given for documented water savings achieved through 2008. This support shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

##### 1) Accounts with Dedicated Irrigation Meters

a) Identify accounts with dedicated irrigation meters and assign ETo-based water use budgets equal to no more than an average of 70% of ETo (reference evapotranspiration) of annual average local ETo per square foot of landscape area in accordance with the schedule below.

Recreational areas (portions of parks, playgrounds, sports fields, golf courses, or school yards in public and private projects where turf provides a playing surface or serves other high-use recreational purposes) and areas permanently and solely dedicated to edible plants, such as orchards and vegetable gardens, may require water in addition to the water use budget. (These areas will be referred to as "recreational" below.) The water agency must provide a statement designating those portions of the landscape to be used for such purposes and specifying any additional water needed above the water use budget, which may not exceed 100% of ETo on an annual basis. If the California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance is revised to reduce the water allowance, this BMP will be revised automatically to reflect that change.

b) Provide notices each billing cycle to accounts with water use budgets showing the relationship between the budget and actual consumption.

c) Offer site-specific technical assistance to reduce water use to those accounts that are 20% over budget in accordance with the schedule given in Section B; agencies may choose not to notify customers whose use is less than their water use budget.

##### 2) Commercial/Industrial/Institutional (CII) Accounts without Meters or with Mixed-Use Meters

a) Develop and implement a strategy targeting and marketing large landscape water use surveys to commercial/industrial/institutional (CII) accounts with mixed-use meters.

b) In un-metered service areas, actively market landscape surveys to existing accounts with large landscapes, or accounts with landscapes which have been determined by the purveyor not to be water efficient.

3) Offer financial incentives to support 1) and 2) above.

#### **B. Implementation Schedule**

1) Implementation shall commence no later than July 1 of the first year following the latter of either: 1) the year the agency signed or became subject to the MOU, or 2) the year this Exhibit is amended.

2) Per year at least 9% of accounts with dedicated meters and 1.5% of all mixed-use or non-metered accounts will receive the assistance detailed in Section A. 1) and 2) above. At least 90% of all dedicated meters and 15% of all mixed-use and non-metered accounts will receive the assistance over a ten year period.

### **C. Coverage Requirements**

Coverage shall consist of:

1) ETo-based water use budgets developed for 90% of CII accounts with dedicated irrigation meters at an average rate of 9% per year over 10 years.

2) Offer site-specific technical assistance annually to all accounts that are 20% over budget within six years of the date implementation was to commence.

3) Complete irrigation water use surveys for not less than 15% of CII accounts with mixed-use meters and un-metered accounts within 10 years of the date implementation is to commence. (Note: CII surveys that include both indoor and outdoor components can be credited against coverage requirements for both the Landscape and CII BMPs.)

An agency will be considered on track if the percent of CII accounts with mixed-use meters receiving a landscape water use survey equals or exceeds the following: 1.5% by the end of the first reporting period (year two) following the date implementation is to commence; 3.6% by the end of year four; 6.3% by the end of year six; 9.6% by the end of year eight; and 13.5% by the end of year ten.

Agency may credit 100% of the number of landscape water use surveys for CII accounts with mixed-use meters completed prior to July 1, 2007 that have received a follow-up inspection against the coverage requirement; agency may credit 50% of surveys that have not received follow-up inspections. Agency may credit 100% of the number of landscape water use surveys completed for CII accounts with mixed-use meters after July 1, 2007 against the coverage requirement.

4) Agency will implement and maintain a customer incentive program(s) for irrigation equipment retrofits.

### **D. Requirements for Documenting BMP Implementation**

#### **1) Dedicated Landscape Irrigation Accounts**

Agencies shall preserve water use records and budgets for customers with dedicated landscape irrigation accounts for at least four years. This information may be used by the Council to verify the agency's reporting on this BMP.

a) Number of dedicated irrigation meter accounts.

b) Number of dedicated irrigation meter accounts with water budgets.

c) Aggregate water use for dedicated non-recreational landscape accounts with budgets.

d) Aggregate acreage assigned water budgets and average ET for dedicated non-recreational landscape accounts with budgets.

e) Number of Accounts 20% over-budget.

f) Number of accounts 20% over-budget offered technical assistance.

g) Number of accounts 20% over-budget accepting technical assistance

h) Aggregate acreage of recreational areas assigned water budgets and average ET for dedicated recreational landscape accounts with budgets.

2) CII Accounts without Meters or with Mixed-Use Meters

a) Number of mixed use and un-metered accounts.

b) Number, type, and dollar value of incentives, rebates, and no- or low-interest loans offered to, and received by, customers.

c) Number of surveys offered.

d) Number of surveys accepted.

e) Estimated annual water savings by customers receiving surveys and implementing recommendations.

**E. Water Savings Assumptions**

Assume landscape BMP will result in a 15%-20% reduction in demand for landscape irrigation by affected accounts, as defined in Section C: Coverage Requirements