

# FAQ

## New Water Efficiency Bills (AB 1668, SB 606) in California

### Why were the new laws created?

The new laws are a response to California's more frequent droughts or dry spells and will better prepare the State for future droughts and other effects of climate change on the State's water supplies. The overall goal is to make water conservation a way of life in CA and make it a more permanent aspect of the state's culture.

### What are the next steps for implementing the new laws?

The laws will be translated into new regulations that will provide more details and rules for water providers on a local level. Over the next few years, water providers will collaborate with State agencies to finalize regulations by 2022.

### What are water providers doing to help implement the law?

Water providers will work with the State Water Board to conduct research to better understand how the new laws will impact and work within their communities. Water providers will also continue to encourage conservation by offering their customers a variety of rebates for replacing their older, less efficient fixtures (such as toilets, clothes washers, and irrigation equipment) with newer, more efficient models.

### How will the new laws impact customers?

Customers will see no immediate impact, as the water use standards will be based on the water provider's overall service area, not on individual usage. Once the water use standards and targets are established in 2022 and implemented in 2023, the water provider may decide to work with individual households and businesses to increase their water efficiency through available rebates, services, and conservation programs.

### How will the new laws impact California businesses?

Businesses will not be subjected to individual water use targets. The new laws provide a guideline for creating new water efficiency performance measures for businesses, but they are only recommendations, not requirements. The process for determining the performance measures will also provide opportunities for public input.

### Will individuals and businesses be fined for not meeting their water use targets?

At this time, individual residents and businesses will NOT be fined for exceeding a water use target so long as the utility is able to meet its system wide water use target.

### Will water providers be monitoring individual water use as part of the new laws?

Since the new laws do not state a requirement for the regulation of individual water use, individuals and businesses do not need to be monitored by the water provider to ensure they are meeting a specific water use target. Water providers may instead offer rebates and conservation services to help ensure that their customers are making progress to achieve their water use goals.

### Will it be illegal to take a shower and wash clothes in the same day, as some media have reported?

The laws provide a guideline for setting and meeting water use targets for the water provider on a system-level. Media reports that state that there will be restrictions on how or when an individual takes a shower or does laundry are NOT correct and are just misleading.

### How difficult will it be to meet the indoor water use target of 55 gallons per person per day?

According to water industry experts, many people are already meeting this target. More details will be coming out in regards to individual expectations. In the meantime, water providers will continue to create new programs and incentives to help our customers manage their water use habits.

### When will the new water conservation targets take effect?

Water providers are required to set new conservation targets by 2022 and must implement them by 2023 and every year following. But again, the targets will be set for the water provider, not individual households or businesses.

### Will residents have to go back to saving water as they did during the drought?

We encourage using water efficiently all year long, however, the short answer is no. During the drought, water providers implemented short-term conservation goals, but the new laws will create long-term water use targets that will encourage greater efficiency over time.