



## No Water Restrictions for Ratepayers

As do most California residents, you probably have questions regarding Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1668 the 55-gallon per person/per day, indoor water-usage legislation. If you have taken the time to read the bill(s) you may be wondering how indoor water usage will be monitored or the number of people living in a household established. There are a number of unknowns regarding the laws but here is what we do know.

- The new laws create water amounts for water districts, not individual water customers or businesses.
- The laws do not set any water use standards on individual customers, nor do they impose fines on individuals.
- The new law(s) don't go into effect immediately but ramp up over time.

***Which means, you DO NOT have to stop taking showers or doing laundry.***

The new laws require the State Water Resources Control Board, in coordination with the Department of Water Resources, to adopt long-term standards for the efficient use of water and establishes specified standards for per capita daily indoor residential water use. Suppliers have to have water use caps for indoor and outdoor watering by the end of 2022. The new water budgets will be fully enforced with penalties applied to the agency beginning November 2023.



## California LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

Detailed plans are being developed over time based on a loose outline called the 'Primer' which the [California Department of Water Resources](#) (DWR) and the State Water Board prepared to summarize the authorities, requirements, and schedules included in the new legislation. The State Water Board had until January 1, 2020 to submit their recommendations for implementation to the Governor. These will only be guidelines and methodologies. The bulk of the legislation will be dropped on urban and agricultural water suppliers to figure out or face fines.

Right now, there is no way to monitor individual indoor usage, nor is there a way to separate indoor watering from outdoor watering. The 'standard' for indoor use has been set at 55-gallon per person per day, eventually decreasing to 52.5 gallons in 2025, and 50 gallons per person per day by 2030. The first standard will be adopted no later than June 2022. So, the idea is to continue to reduce water usage gradually but the execution of these 'standards' has not been established.

To sum it all up for you here are facts on the long-term water efficiency legislation that was signed into effect May 2018.

- Water agencies are required to calculate a water efficiency standard for their entire service area annually based on indoor residential water use; outdoor water use; and commercial, industrial and institutional irrigation.
- The standard of 55 gallons per person per day for indoor residential water use is not intended as an enforceable standard for individuals. It is one of several elements used to calculate the overall efficiency standard for a service area.
- Individuals will not be responsible for State Water Resources Control Board fines. Instead, the State Water Board can fine water agencies up to \$10,000 per day if the agency does not meet its cumulative standard.
- There is no law against showering and doing laundry on the same day. There are no specific statewide laws that require individual households to meet any specific targets. The targets will be set for an entire service area and are scheduled to go into effect in 2023.

We understand any frustrations or concerns you may have related to the limitations being set forth by the State and are doing all we can to identify and voice issue we have with SB 606 and AB 1668. We continue our resistance to the unreasonable mandates and do our best to keep you informed of any updates or changes.

If you care to make your views know you may contact your State Representative, Marie Waldren at <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers>