

5 THINGS TO KNOW!

About Assembly Bill (AB) 1572

**Rachel Waite-Harvey, Water Use Efficiency Supervisor
Municipal Water District of Orange County**

State legislation AB 1572, signed on October 13, 2023, prohibits the use of drinking (potable) water to irrigate nonfunctional turf on commercial, industrial, institutional (CII) properties and Homeowners Association (HOA) common areas throughout the state of California. AB 1572 applies to properties owned by state and local public agencies and non-residential HOA common areas. This legislation does not apply to single-family or multi-family residential properties, cemeteries, areas irrigated with recycled water, or areas requiring an exception for tree health and situations requiring an exception to address immediate health and safety needs.

There are two (2) components to this legislation: 1) Property owners must self-certify their compliance to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to define what areas are functional and what areas are nonfunctional; 2) Property owners must discontinue irrigation of nonfunctional turfgrass areas that are irrigated with potable water.

Your local retail water provider is required to establish nonfunctional turfgrass regulations by January 1, 2027, and notify impacted customers.

Here are five (5) key facts to help you prepare and comply:

1 FUNCTIONAL OR NONFUNCTIONAL.

Functional turfgrass serves nondecorative purposes in spaces such as parks, sports fields, golf courses, picnic areas, playgrounds, and other recreational spaces. Nonfunctional turf is purely decorative and may include street medians, business parks, or parking lots.

2 PUBLIC PROPERTIES.

Public properties are prohibited from irrigating non-functional turf with potable water as of January 1, 2027. Local government buildings in disadvantaged communities are prohibited as of January 1, 2031, or until state funding is made available. Public properties with over 5,000 square feet of turfgrass must self-certify to the SWRCB every three (3) years starting June 2030.

3 COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL (CII) PROPERTIES.

CII properties are prohibited from irrigating non-functional turf with potable water as of January 1, 2028 and properties with more than 5,000 square feet of turfgrass must self-certify their compliance to the SWRCB every three (3) years beginning June 30, 2030.

4 HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (HOA).

HOA common areas are prohibited from irrigating non-functional turf with potable water as of January 1, 2029, and must self-certify compliance to the SWRCB every three (3) years beginning June 30, 2031, for properties with more than 5,000 square feet of turfgrass.

5 REBATES AVAILABLE.

Do you have non-functional turf on your property? MWDOC's [Turf Replacement Rebate Program](#) offers \$3 per square foot of turfgrass transformed into watershed-wise landscaping for commercial properties and \$4 per square foot for public properties. Stack on the [Spray-to-Drip Rebate Program](#) for an additional \$1 per square foot of landscape where traditional spray sprinklers are replaced with highly efficient drip irrigation. Find out more information at www.mwdoc.com/commercialrebates/!

