



METROPOLITAN'S DROUGHT RESPONSE AND NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF EFFORTS



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DROUGHT RESPONSE AND NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF EFFORTS



What is Non-Functional Turf

Why state regulatory actions are in place

How does this fit into federal drought response

What is the upcoming Metropolitan Action

Local Response & Next Steps



What is Non-Functional Turf (NFT)



When is Turf Functional (i.e. Not Non-Function)

- Turfgrass in recreational use areas such as school fields, sports fields, and parks
- Turfgrass irrigated with recycled or other non-potable water
- Turfgrass within areas irrigated to ensure the health of trees and other perennial non-turf plantings
- Turfgrass species that are irrigated equivalent to a "low water use plant"



Why state regulatory actions are in place

In response to California's drought, the state adopted emergency regulations to **prevent wasteful water uses** and promote conservation.



Current State Regulation

Effective until June 2023, owners and managers of **commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) properties** are **prohibited from irrigating non-functional turf** with potable water.

Enforcement

- Failure to comply may result in a fine up to \$500 a day by the State Water Resources Control Board in addition to any local enforcement of violations

How does this fit into federal drought response

June 2022, Commissioner Touton called for water users across the Colorado River Basin States to conserve an additional 2 to 4 million acre-feet of water in 2023.



Western Drought Response

- MOU pledged increased conservation actions by Metropolitan & other municipal water providers
- Purpose of the MOU: Show basin-wide collaboration and demonstrate that urban water users are committed to reducing their reliance on the River

Commitment to reduce water

- Actions include reducing the quantity of NFT by 30% through replacement with drought- and climate-resilient landscaping

What is the upcoming Metropolitan Action

On October 11, the Metropolitan Board will consider adopting a resolution **encouraging action** to reduce or eliminate irrigation of NFT with potable water.



Intent of Resolution

To promote principles to reduce NFT water demand throughout service area:

1. Prohibit irrigation of NFT with potable water
2. Prohibit installation of future NFT
3. Require the removal of NFT from CII sites

Model Ordinance

- Offers **voluntary** sample ordinance language.
- Allows municipalities to make adjustments as they see fit.
- Basic ordinance framework with placeholders for municipalities to insert their preferred enforcement methods and timelines.

Local Response & Next Steps



Local Response

- Recognize and respect local authority
 - Local municipality to determine functionality of landscape material
 - Water district to determine own local drought actions

What we have done in the past

- MWDOC has assisted in developing and coordinating template ordinances on multiple occasion
 - Provided general consistency between local jurisdictions
 - Balance requirements of state law, while minimizing the complexity and cost of compliance
 - Stakeholder inclusive process