



LESS LAWN, MORE BEAUTY

NEW RULES FOR WATERING LAWNS WITH DRINKING WATER

Starting January 1, 2027, California law (AB 1572) will prohibit the use of drinking water to irrigate nonfunctional turf at most municipal, government, commercial, industrial, and institutional properties, including common areas managed by homeowner associations. These new state rules provide an opportunity to create welcoming new spaces that showcase the beauty of low-water and native plants, highlight your commitment to a sustainable future, and provide a vision for others in your community to follow.

By taking early action, you can reduce water use and pesticide usage, showcasing the way forward for local businesses, HOAs, landscape designers, and the community at large.

What is a Nonfunctional Turf?

Nonfunctional turf refers to irrigated lawn that is ornamental and not used for recreation or public gatherings.



NONFUNCTIONAL TURF

- Lawn in medians, roundabouts, or parking lots
- Unused patches near signage or building entries
- Lawn between buildings with no clear use
- Decorative lawn along sidewalks, building edges, or fences
- Sloped or oddly shaped areas that are hard to use or water efficiently



FUNCTIONAL TURF

- School and sports fields
- Picnic areas
- Designated play spaces
- Areas where people regularly gather, play, or engage in recreational activities

How to Prepare

Early action provides time to plan and make changes at a comfortable pace. Starting with small, high-visibility areas like entryways, courtyards, or walkways can quickly show results, build excitement, and create momentum for larger projects down the road.



To learn more visit eastvalleywater.gov

COMPLIANCE TIMELINE

January 1, 2027

Public properties owned or managed by local governments, including city and county buildings, libraries, fire and police stations, courthouses, streets and highways, and public utilities must stop watering nonfunctional lawn.





PLANNING YOUR WATER-WISE LANDSCAPE



How to Get Started

1

Step 1: Identify Nonfunctional Lawn

Walk the property to assess where lawn is present. Determine which areas are functional and which are not. Discontinue watering nonfunctional areas.

2

Step 2: Adjust Irrigation Systems

Work with landscaping professionals to switch to more water efficient watering methods.

3

Step 3: Make a Plan

Create a communal vision for the transformed landscapes, including shaded areas, native plant gardens, and increased curb appeal. Develop strategies to protect and water existing trees during work.

4

Step 4: Start Small

Break up the project into manageable phases to fit your budget, take advantage of rebates, and explore state grants.

USE THIS TRANSITION TO CREATE COLORFUL SPACES AND SUSTAINABLE SPACES



Paths, benches, and shaded seating for walking, gathering, or relaxing



Shade trees and flowering shrubs



Rain gardens and bioswales



Low-water native and water-wise plants