

# This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

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Smart Practices.  
Sustainable Solutions.



# Lessons From California Drought & What it Means for the Rest of the U.S.





GovBeat

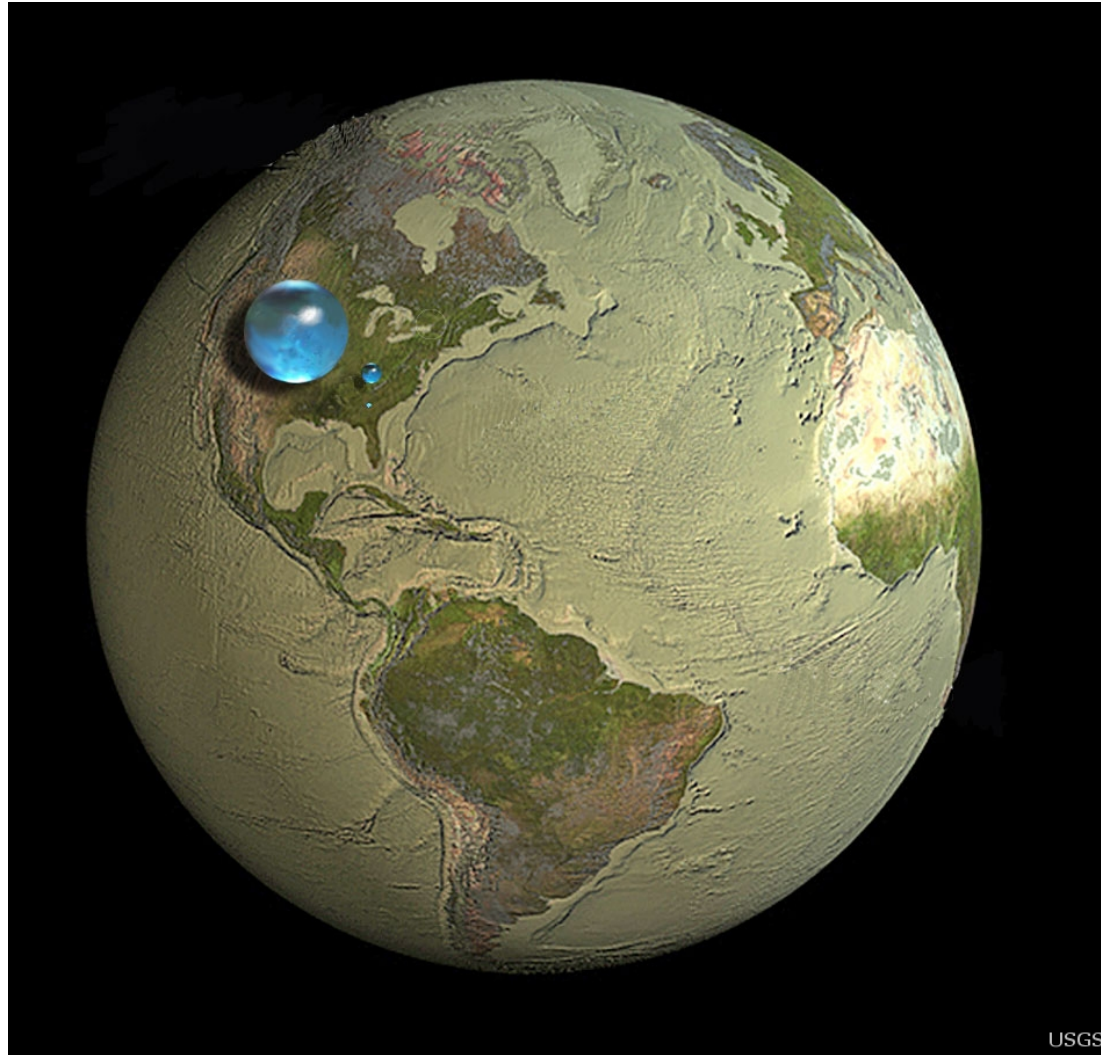
# Agriculture is 80 percent of water use in California. Why aren't farmers being forced to cut back?

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By **Jeff Guo** April 3, 2015 

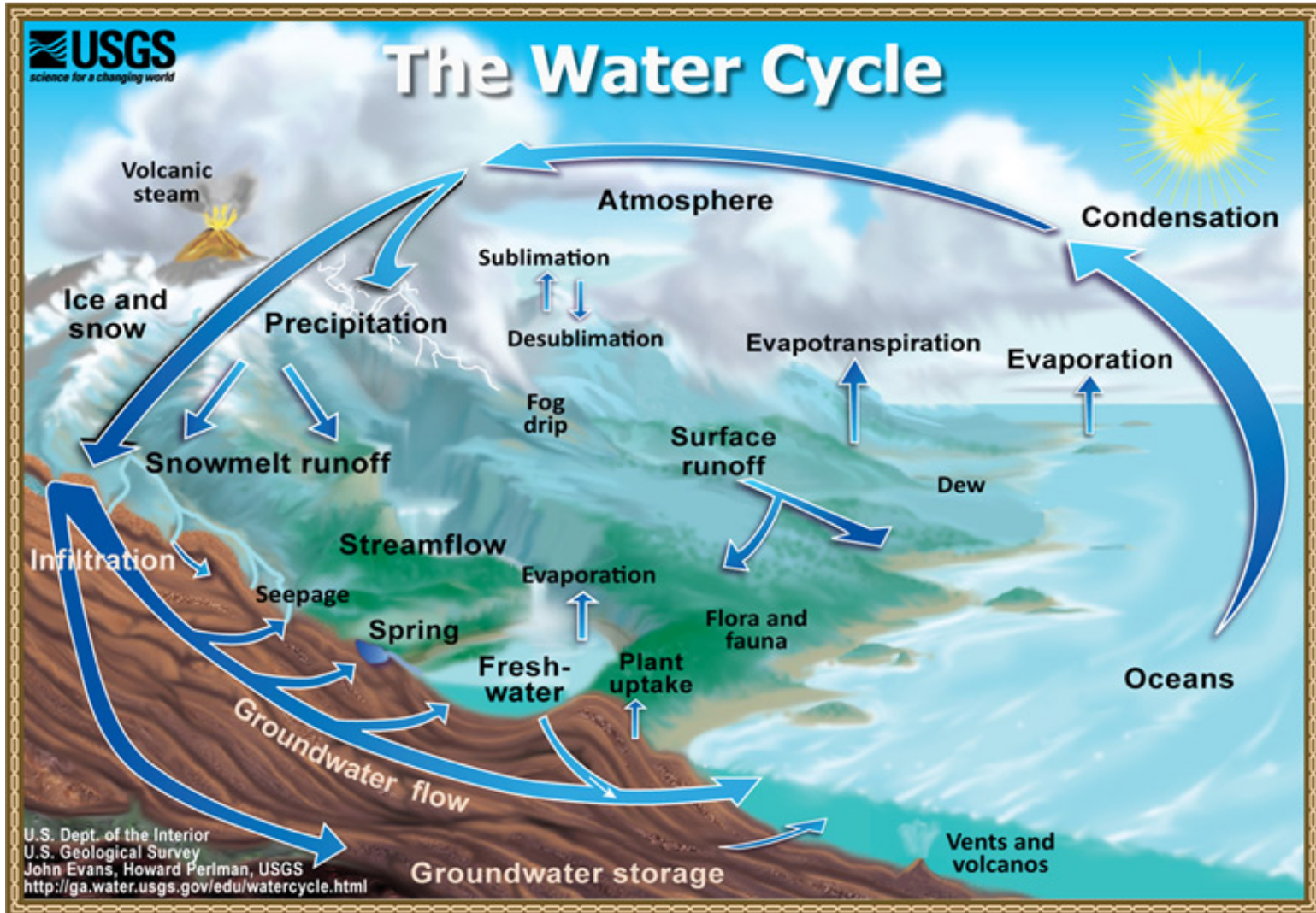






USGS

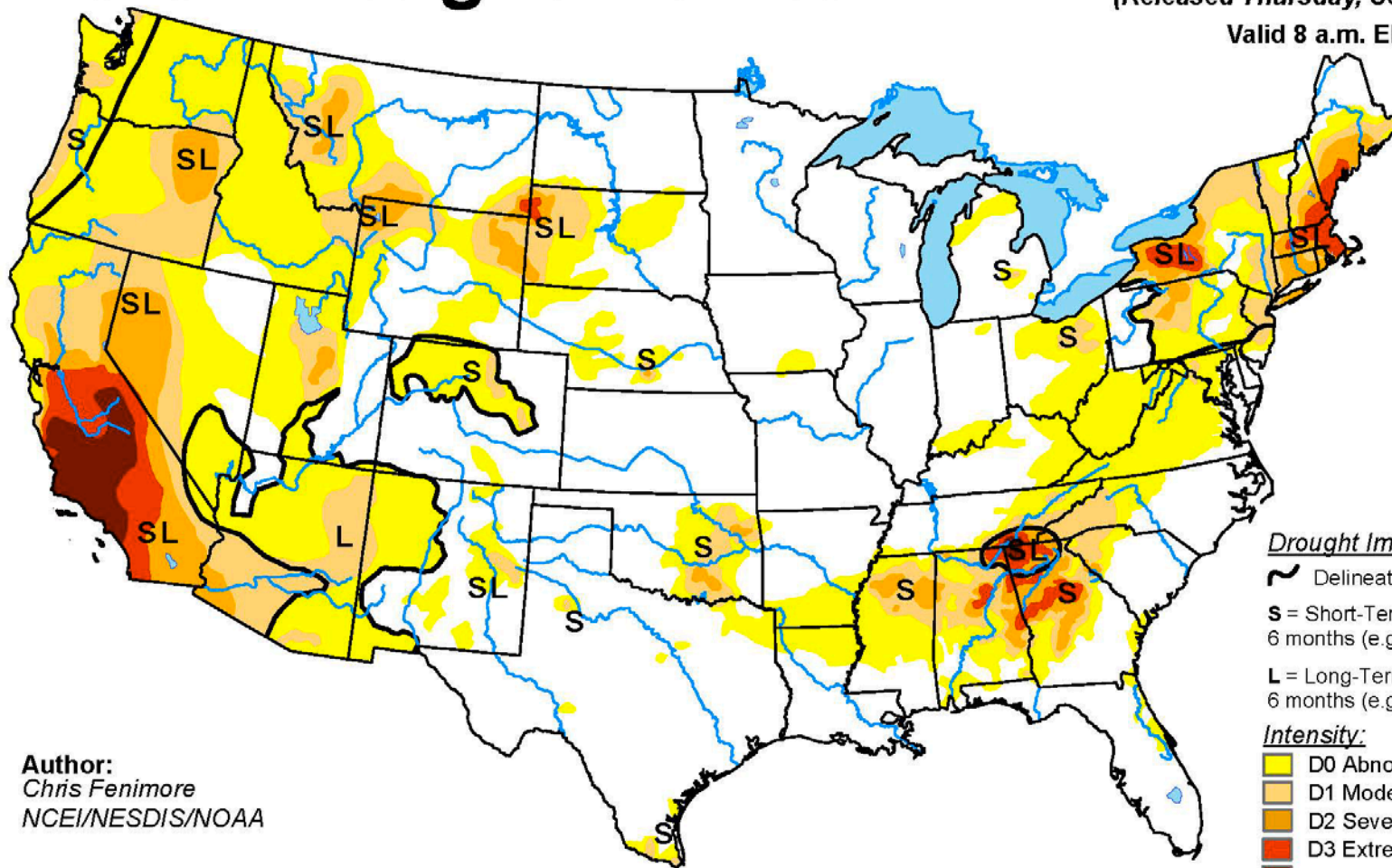




# U.S. Drought Monitor

September 27, 2016  
(Released Thursday, Sep. 29, 2016)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Author:  
Chris Fenimore  
NCEI/NESDIS/NOAA

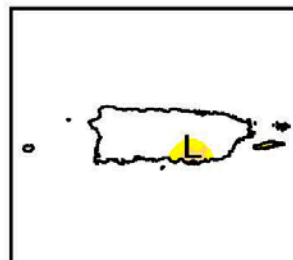
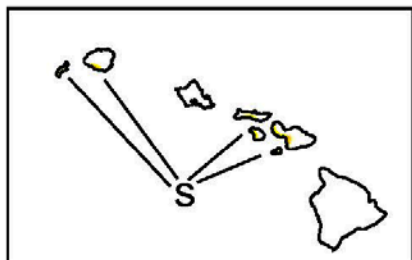
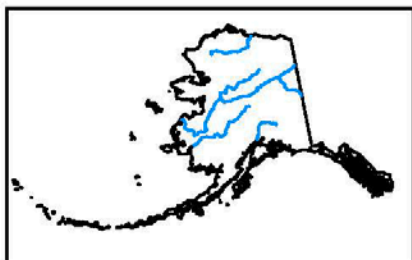
### Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- S** = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L** = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

### Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



**Fuse lit:** April 1, 2015 – Executive Order on Drought from Governor Jerry Brown

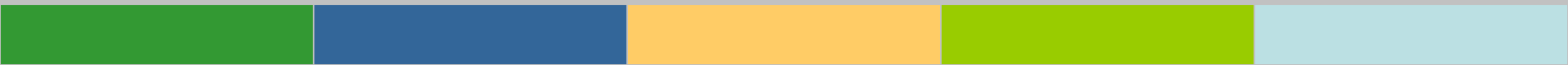
**2015:** Updates to Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Completed

**2016:** California Water Plan Updated  
Recommendations from the Independent Technical Panel  
Legislation Reaction to Drought Initiatives





# What about...





*The Atlantic*  
**Is El Niño Finally Ending California's Drought?**

It depends on how you define "drought."



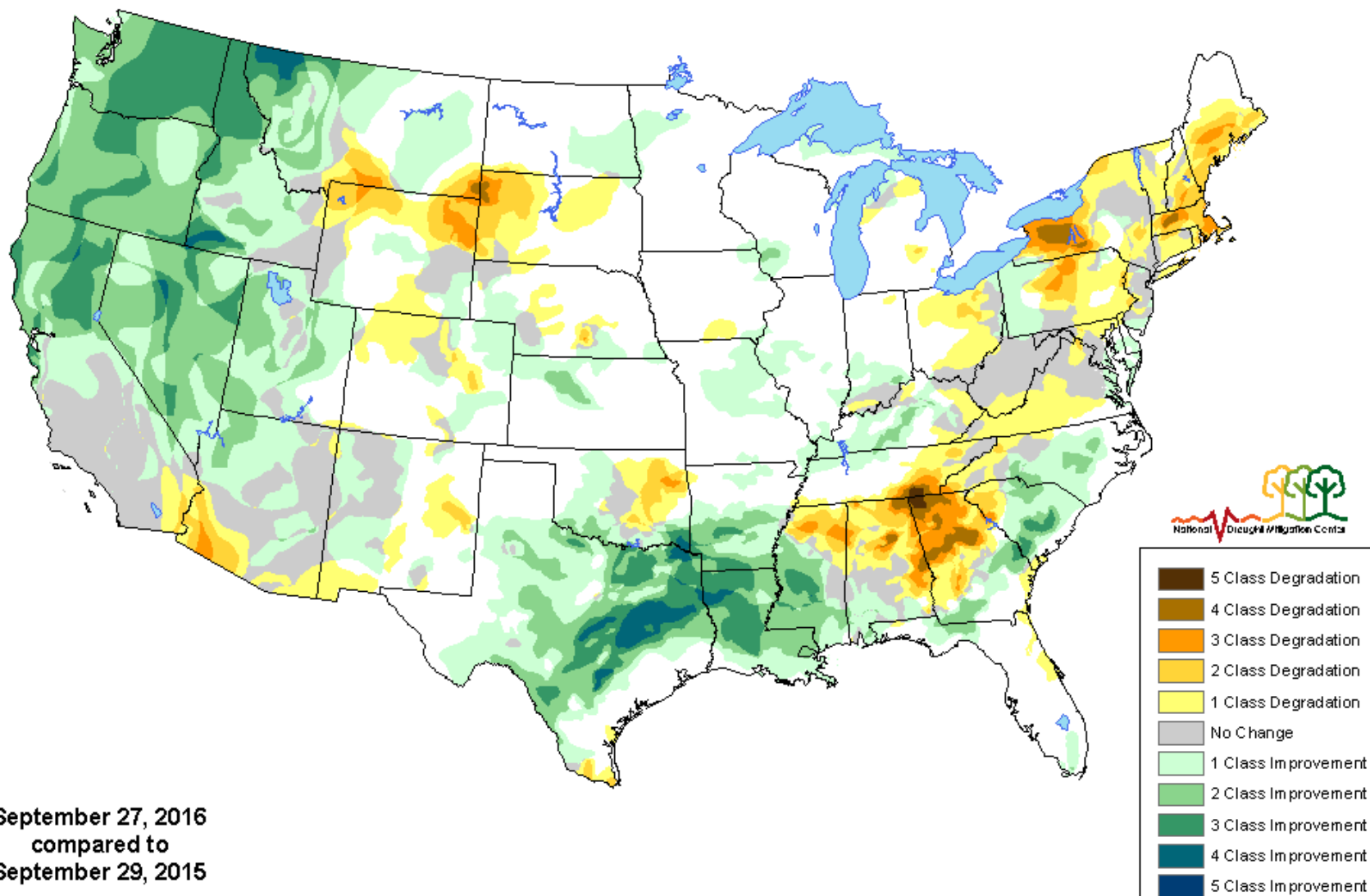
A man and a woman walk together in Alamo Square Park in San Francisco on Thursday evening.

Jeff Chiu / AP

**ROBINSON MEYER**  
MAR 7, 2016 | SCIENCE



# U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change 1 Year





# Lesson 1:

**Plants are a big part of the future.**





3. The Department of Water Resources (the Department) shall lead a statewide initiative, in partnership with local agencies, to collectively replace 50 million square feet of lawns and ornamental turf with drought tolerant landscapes. The Department shall provide funding to allow for lawn replacement programs in underserved communities, which will complement local programs already underway across the state.
  
11. The Department shall update the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance through expedited regulation. This updated Ordinance shall increase water efficiency standards for new and existing landscapes through more efficient irrigation systems, greywater usage, onsite storm water capture, and by limiting the portion of landscapes that can be covered in turf. It will also require reporting on the implementation and enforcement of local ordinances, with required reports due by December 31, 2015. The Department shall provide information on local compliance to the Water Board, which shall consider adopting regulations or taking appropriate enforcement actions to promote compliance. The Department shall provide technical assistance and give priority in grant funding to public agencies for actions necessary to comply with local ordinances.





## Challenges & Recommendations

How to best approach the current drought remains a major challenge. Moving forward, DWR would like to do more research on graywater and incorporate low tech, low cost and effective water storage resources (e.g., rain swale). The current drought should also be used as an opportunity to categorize resilient, beneficial landscapes. By incorporating appropriate plant materials and efficient technologies, landscapes can be part of the solution.

"Don't want to see Band-Aid solutions...use this drought as an opportunity to categorize resilient, beneficial landscapes."

*-Briana Seapy*

Population growth will create more challenges even if drought conditions are not present. For example, 15 to 20 million more people are in the San Joaquin area than in the 1970s, but rainfall is at the same level. A continual challenge will be how to both manage and

maintain irrigation systems. A guaranteed way to conserve water is by making investments in the maintenance of already installed irrigation systems a priority.

*Published February 2016*



## **Lesson 2:**

**It's about more than just  
immediate water savings.**

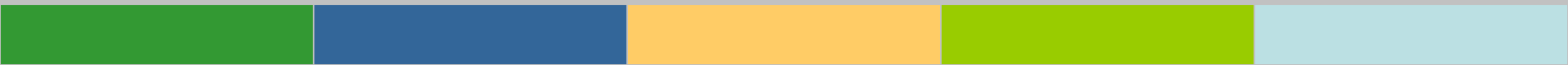






## **Lesson 3:**

**Funding and enforcement  
are essential.**





# Lesson 4:

**Compromise is key.**





# Who is driving the future?





## Voluntary

**BMPs**

**Standards**

**Green Initiatives**

**Consumer Expectations**

## Mandatory

**Ordinances**

**Codes**

**Regulations**





# Codes

- Shift to write standards in mandatory language.
- Adopted by code setting bodies or rating systems
- ICC, IAPMO, CalGreen





Water resources are increasingly targets of legislation and regulation. IA provides a powerful ally to represent and protect your interests, nationally and locally.



[Home](#) > [Policy](#) > [Public Policy Issues](#) > [Model Irrigation Ordinance](#)

## POLICY

- Grassroots Advocacy
- State Legislative Tracking
- Legislative Coordinators
- Position Statements
- Public Policy Issues
  - California Drought
  - Clean Water Act
  - Farm Bill
  - Product Labeling
  - Research
  - Restrictions & Regulations
  - WaterSense
  - [Model Irrigation](#)

## Public Policy Issues

### Model Irrigation Ordinance

Version 1.0 of the model irrigation ordinance, released on October 5, 2015, provides design parameters for new landscape irrigation systems and guidelines for existing irrigation systems. The ordinance works in conjunction with established landscape codes/ordinances and can be modified to meet local needs. In addition to the model irrigation ordinance, sample reports and checklists are available below.

- [Model Irrigation Ordinance](#)
- [Irrigation Inspection Affidavit](#)
- [Example Irrigation Plan Checklist](#)
- [Certifier Report](#)

*If you have questions, please contact IA Government and Public Affairs Director John Farner at [johnfarner@irrigation.org](mailto:johnfarner@irrigation.org) or IA Senior Policy and Advocacy Manager Elizabeth McCartney at [elizabethmccartney@irrigation.org](mailto:elizabethmccartney@irrigation.org)*







# Market Trends

- Native-type landscapes that won't require irrigation.
- Minimal turf grass areas.
- No potable water for irrigation.





# Observation

- Efficiency = reduction or elimination
- Assumes no benefit comes from plants
- Natives are superior
- No points for superior irrigation systems
- No follow up to the water budget



## **What does it mean for the rest of the U.S.?**

- 1) When drought hits, California will be a primary source for information.
- 2) Technologies manufactured to meet California standards will affect use in the rest of the U.S.
- 3) Codes with California influences are being employed across the U.S., these may include drought plans and legislation.



## Realities

- 1) Policymakers' involvement in the landscape irrigation industry will increase, not decrease
- 2) Landscape water use will be reduced (mandated)
- 3) Potable water will not be the main source for irrigation water
- 4) Landscapes will not look the same 10 years from now as they do today
- 5) Our industry needs to partner with governments and other stakeholders to form sustainable solutions



Oxygen.  
Food.  
Life.

Just add water.



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