

This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

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TALES FROM TWO ADOPTING ORGANIZATIONS

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Sonoma County Water Agency

Jana Vierola
San Diego County Water Authority

Candace Schaible
Utah State University Extension Iron



Outline

1. QWEL Overview
2. San Diego County Water Authority
3. Utah State University Cooperative Extension
4. We want you!

QWEL OVERVIEW

- Carrie Pollard

QWEL Overview

- **Affordable local approach** to reducing landscape water demand
- **Knowledge in water efficient and sustainable landscape practices** including water management and preservation of other valuable resources

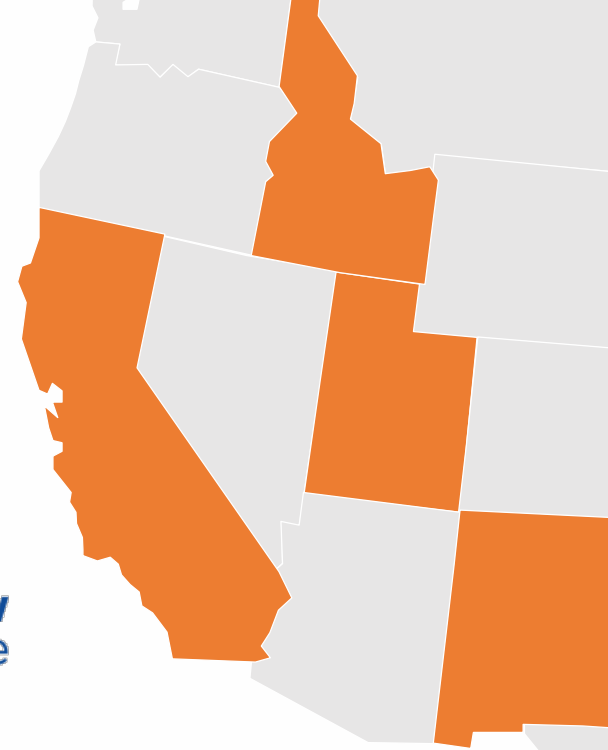
QWEL Overview

- The Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership is the parent Professional Certifying Organization (PCO) for QWEL
- EPA WaterSense labeled Professional Certification Program for Irrigation System Audits
- Recognition from the U.S. EPA WaterSense program with five awards in four years



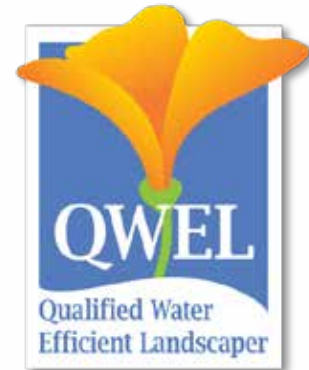
QWEL Overview

15 professional certifying organizations
in 4 states



QWEL Overview

- 10 years since program launch
- More than 2,000 certified professionals
- It's time for an update:
 - Logo and branding
 - Marketing materials for professionals and homeowners
 - Curriculum
 - Program management tools



SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

- Jana Vierola

SDCWA Program Implementation

- Approved May 2015 as part of Board's emergency drought response package
 - Second phase approved September 2016
- First phase January-December 2016
 - 15 class series completed
- Second phase January-June 2017
 - 10 class series completed



QWEL Training & Certification

- 25 class series completed
- 639 participated
- 568 completed program
- ↓
- 79% earned certificate



QWEL Highlights

- 99% felt the class provided them with skills and knowledge to manage landscapes more efficiently
- 98% rated the class as “good” or “excellent”
- Piloted Spanish-language training classes
- 173 entities represented
 - *Suppliers, contractors and public organizations*



Ongoing Implementation

- Recommend continuation of program
 - Consistent with regional “how-to resources” to advance long-term water efficiency
 - Fills important gap in regional training resources
- \$165,000 funding available from grants
 - Additional \$10,000 is recommended from operational funds
- RFP in process; will seek Board approval this fall



UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

- Candace Schaible

Northern Utah

Key Partners



Utah State University

- Professional Certifying Organization (PCO)
- Instruction

Utah Nursery & Landscape Association

- Registration
- Graduate Management



JORDAN VALLEY WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District

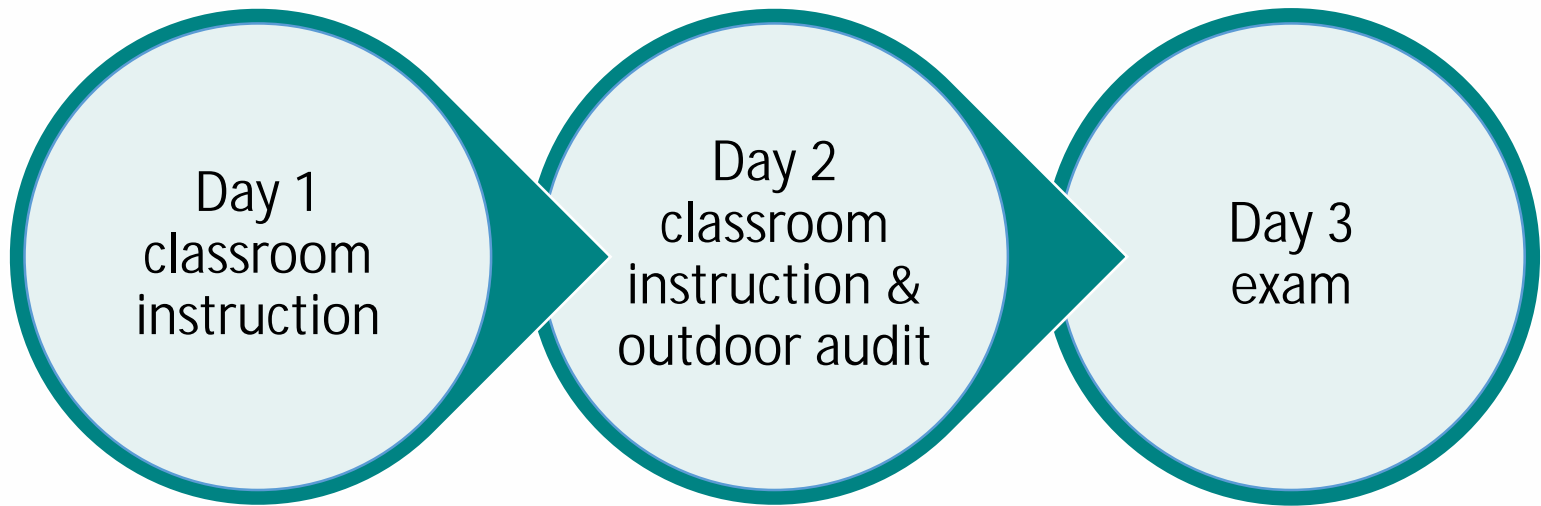
- Marketing
- Host/Facilitate

Water District Throughout the State

- Host/Facilitate

Northern Utah

Three Day Workshop Format



Northern Utah

Lessons Learned



We Want You!

- Interested in offering QWEL in your area?
- Come and visit us at [booth 319](#)



qwel.net

Q & A

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