



One Water Committee

# Non-functional Turf Efforts Update

Item 9-3

August 15, 2022

# Advancing Regional Non-functional Removal

## Four Options for Metropolitan to Explore

- Incentives-based
- Sample ordinance / Board resolution
- New water allocation methodology for drought emergency
- State legislation

## Non-Functional Turf Efforts

# Defining Non-Functional Turf

- Options to define NFT
  - SWRCB developed
  - SNWA developed
  - MWD – to be developed
- Generally includes:
  - Potable water irrigation only
  - CII turf not used for recreation / community gathering
  - Tree health considerations
  - Exclusion of residential turf

# Non-functional Turf Removal Incentives

## Turf Replacement Program Incentive Structure Change

### Increased Turf Replacement Program Incentive

- Grants received to increase incentive
- Potential further temporary increase in incentive
- Decrease incentive over time as ordinances/legislation are passed
- Continue to seek outside funding to achieve effort

# Non-functional Turf Ordinance Development

## Non- Functional Turf Ordinance Development

# What Can Metropolitan do to Encourage Ordinance Adoption?

- Cities have water efficiency ordinances
  - Most have permanent ban section
- MWD could provide sample language
- MWD Board resolution encouraging adoption of ordinance language

Non-  
Functional  
Turf  
Ordinance  
Development  
(continued)

# Ordinance Language Options

- Language that could be included:
  - Permanent ban on irrigating NFT with potable water
  - Permanent ban on installation of turf on new development
  - Removal of NFT on CII properties by a specific date
  - Exceptions
    - Tree health
    - HOA community spaces



# Non- Functional Turf Ordinance Enforcement

## Enforcement Funding

- Enforcement funds available in MAAP
- Create new category of MAAP funding for NFT ordinance enforcement
- Funded activities may include:
  - Outreach/marketing
  - Enforcement patrol
  - Fine / penalty administration

# Proposed Water Allocation Methodology

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## Change to Emergency Water Allocation Methodology

- No water allocation from MWD supply for NFT during declared emergency
- Utilize turf dashboard currently in development by Dr. Marx
- Additional data would need to be provided by water agencies

# Statewide Legislation to Ban Watering of Non-Functional Turf

## Non- Functional Turf Legislation

# Current Legislation

- Conservation Emergency Regulation
  - Adopted by SWRCB on May 24, 2022
  - In effect from June 10, 2022 – June 10, 2023
  - Bans watering of NFT on CII properties with potable water
    - Does not include recreation or community space
    - Exception for tree health

Non-  
Functional  
Turf  
Legislation  
Other State  
Efforts

# Nevada Assembly Bill 356

- Prohibits SNWA/Colorado River water supplies from watering NFT by 2027
- “Non-functional Turf” means irrigated lawn grass area not meeting definition of Functional Turf
- Functional Turf
  - Grass area providing recreational benefit
  - At least 10 feet from the street
  - Less than 25% slope
  - Not medians, parkways, or entryways
  - Includes residential, pet areas, athletic fields, play areas

## Non- Functional Turf Legislation

# Benefits of Introducing Legislation

- Current drought conditions provide an opportunity for effective change
- Legislation sends unified message with statewide outreach and marketing
- Stronger enforcement
- Greater long-term benefits and higher reduction in water use

# NFT Option Snapshot

Option	Benefits	Considerations
Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motivates CII customers to remove NFT</li> <li>• Takes advantage of policy window opened by SWRCB emergency regulations banning irrigation of NFT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• De-escalation needs ordinance/legislation to promote change</li> <li>• Budget considerations</li> </ul>
Ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Codifies ban on NFT irrigation</li> <li>• Allows local control</li> <li>• Municipalities can adjust language as needed for their specific situation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NFT definition could vary widely</li> <li>• Difficult to understand why large differences between municipalities</li> <li>• Relies on municipalities to adopt/enforce</li> </ul>
Allocation Methodology in Drought Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes NFT irrigation from water demand during declared emergencies</li> <li>• Provides water for HH&amp;S / other needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional data needed from member agencies</li> <li>• Complex</li> </ul>
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statewide or regional ban on NFT</li> <li>• Unified message and outreach</li> <li>• Higher expected water savings</li> <li>• Greater compliance/enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buy-in needed from state reps and other agencies/organizations</li> <li>• Lengthy process</li> <li>• Difficult to develop statewide approach given California's diversity climate &amp; community values</li> </ul>



## Next Steps

- Receive Board feedback on presented options
- Continue efforts to seek outside funding of turf replacement program
- Continue developing NFT dashboard to assist MAs with decision-making

