

# The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

# Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

## OWC Committee

J. Abdo, Chair  
T. Quinn, Vice Chair  
L. Ackerman  
R. Atwater  
S. Blois  
G. Cordero  
D. Erdman  
A. Fellow  
L. Fong-Sakai  
C. Kurtz  
R. Lefevre  
C. Miller  
J. Morris  
B. Pressman

## **Adjourned One Water (Conservation and Local Resources) Committee - Final - Revised 1**

Meeting with Board of Directors \*

**August 15, 2022**

**3:00 p.m.**

Teleconference meetings will continue until further notice. Live streaming is available for all board and committee meetings on [mwdh2o.com](http://mwdh2o.com) ([Click Here](#))

A listen only phone line is also available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 831 5177 2466. Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via teleconference only. To participate call (833) 548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 815 2066 4276.

## **Monday, August 15, 2022 Meeting Schedule**

09:30 a.m. Adj. F&I  
10:30 a.m. Adj. E&O  
12:30 p.m. Adj. C&L  
01:00 p.m. Adj. WP&S  
03:00 p.m. Adj. OWC

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MWD Headquarters Building • 700 N. Alameda Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

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\* The Metropolitan Water District's meeting of this Committee is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee may participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee will not vote on matters before this Committee.

## **1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))**

### **\*\* CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION \*\***

## **2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the One Water (Conservation and Local Resources) Committee held June 28, 2022 [21-1393](#)

**Attachments:** [08152022 2A OWC Minutes](#)

## **3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION**

- 7-14** Support Metropolitan's Application to the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-1419](#)

**Attachments:** [08162022-OWC 7-14 B-L](#)  
[08152022 OWC 7-14 Presentation](#)

**\*\* END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS \*\***

**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION**

NONE

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 9-3** Information on policy alternatives Metropolitan may consider for reducing non-functional turf in its service area. [ADDED ITEM 8/11/22] [21-1431](#)

**Attachments:** [08162022-OWC 9-3 B-L](#)  
[08152022 OWC 9-3 Presentation](#)

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Metropolitan Nonfunctional Turf Efforts Update. [WITHDRAWN] [21-1394](#)
- b. Update on Conservation Programs [21-1396](#)

**Attachments:** [08152022 OWC 6b Presentation](#)

- c. Initial Results from Household Water Use Study [21-1397](#)

**Attachments:** [08152022 OWC 6c Presentation](#)

**7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a. Water Resource Management Manager's Report [21-1398](#)

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

NONE

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**NOTE:** This committee reviews items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors. Final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Agendas for the meeting of the Board of Directors may be obtained from the Board Executive Secretary. This committee will not take any final action that is binding on the Board, even when a quorum of the Board is present.

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <http://www.mwdh2o.com>.

Requests for a disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.

# **THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## **MINUTES**

### **ONE WATER (CONSERVATION AND LOCAL RESOURCES) COMMITTEE**

**June 28, 2022**

Chair Abdo called the teleconference meeting to order at 10:55 a.m.

Members present: Chair Abdo, Vice Chair Quinn, Directors Ackerman, Atwater, Blois, Cordero, Erdman, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Kurtz, Miller, Morris, and Pressman.

Members absent: Directors Lefevre.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors De Jesus, Dick, Goldberg, Jung, McCoy, Ortega, Peterson, Ramos, Record, Smith, Sutley, and Tamaribuchi.

Staff present: Coffey, S. Franco, Goshi, Hagekhalil, Schlotterbeck, and Upadhyay.

#### **1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION**

None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

#### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the One Water (Conservation and Local Resources) Committee held May 24, 2022

#### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

7-4 Subject:

Review and consider the Jurupa Community Services District's approved Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declarations and four Addenda and take related CEQA actions; Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Western Municipal Water District and Jurupa Community Services District for the Jurupa Community Services District Recycled Water Program for up to 500 AFY of recycled water for irrigation use and groundwater recharge in the Jurupa Community Services District service area

Presented by: Anna Garcia, Assistant Engineer II, Supply Acquisition Team

Motion:

Review and consider JCSD's Initial Study/Final MND, MMRP, and four addenda and take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Western Municipal Water District and Jurupa Community Services District for the JCSD Recycled Water Program for up to 500 AFY of recycled water for irrigation use and groundwater recharge in the JCSD service area.

No presentations were given, Director Atwater made a motion, seconded by Director Fellow to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-4.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Blois, Cordero, Erdman, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Kurtz, Miller, Morris, Pressman, and Quinn.

Noes: None

Abstentions: Director Fong-Sakai (2A).

Absent: Director Lefevre.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstain, and 1 absent.

The motion for item 7-4 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 1 absent.

<b>END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS</b>
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**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Subject: Update on Conservation Programs

Presented by: Bill McDonnell, Manager, Water Efficiency Team

Bill McDonnell provided an update on recent conservation activity, expenditures, residential and commercial, industrial, and institutional turf replacement program, and the continued efforts in water conservation.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega
2. Fellow
3. Abdo
4. Quinn
5. Fong-Sakai
6. Erdman
7. Peterson

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Presented by: Brad Coffey, Manager, Water Resource Management Group

Brad Coffey provided an update on Water Resource Management activities and the continued efforts in managing the drought.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Quinn
2. Ortega
3. Record
4. Dick
5. Pressman
6. De Jesus

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Judy Abdo  
Chair



- **Board of Directors**

***One Water (Conservation and Local Resources) Committee***

8/16/2022 Board Meeting

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7-14

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**Subject**

Support Metropolitan's Application to the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

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**Executive Summary**

Metropolitan actively seeks grant funding to support its conservation programs. One current opportunity for grant funding is the WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023. On July 27, 2022, Metropolitan applied to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Water and Energy Efficiency FY 2023 Grant Program. Metropolitan requested \$5 million to increase funding for turf replacement for residential and commercial landscapes. If approved, this action would adopt a resolution (**Attachment 1**) supporting Metropolitan's application for supplemental funding for turf removal in residential and commercial landscapes. This action also authorizes the General Manager to accept up to \$5 million in grant funding and enter into a contract with Reclamation for the WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023. If awarded, Metropolitan would pay the non-federal cost share of \$5 million over three years from the conservation program budget. Metropolitan would provide project participation opportunities to all member agencies.

**Timing and Urgency**

The WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023 Program requires the inclusion of a board resolution supporting grant proposals as soon as possible following the application submittal date of July 28, 2022.

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**Details**

**Background**

Through the WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program (WaterSMART), Reclamation annually invites states, Indian tribes, water districts, and other organizations to apply for funding assistance. The program targets projects that increase water efficiency, increase hydropower production, mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the western United States. This funding opportunity will allocate available program funds, including fiscal year 2023 enacted appropriations for WaterSMART Grants and funding available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), P.L. 117-58 in FY 2022 or FY 2023. Applicants can submit multiple applications, but Reclamation will not award more than \$5 million to any one applicant. Applicants must provide at least a 50 percent cost share, and award recipients must complete projects within three years of the award.

Metropolitan incentivizes improvements to outdoor water-use efficiency by offering a variety of rebates for irrigation system devices and conversions from turf to more California-friendly landscapes. These incentives are integral components of Metropolitan's efforts to sustain momentum toward achieving the Integrated Resources Plan goals for urban water conservation. An analysis by staff that was facilitated through discussions with the Board and member agencies determined that increasing resources for residential and commercial landscape transformation will also help respond to the Governor's call for a 15 percent reduction in water use and mitigate the impacts of the current drought.



Metropolitan's application to the WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023 program requests \$5 million in federal grant funds to supplement the residential and commercial turf replacement incentive. Reclamation requires awarded applicants to provide at least a 50 percent cost share, or dollar-for-dollar match based on total project costs. If awarded, Metropolitan would be responsible for providing at least a \$5 million cost share, which is available within the annual expectations for the Turf Replacement Program. If awarded, staff anticipates the grant funding would accelerate conversion of non-functional turf in the residential and commercial sectors. Because of increased activity that an additional \$1 per square foot rebate would generate, staff anticipates an additional spending of up to \$11.5 million on residential and commercial turf replacement projects through the entire three-year grant period if the grant was awarded. These additional expenditures would represent Metropolitan's cost share.

If awarded, Metropolitan will use the grant funds to increase the incentive for residential and commercial recipients that apply for the Turf Replacement Program by an additional \$1 per square foot. Metropolitan will provide funding to member agencies through the existing Conservation Credits Program. Under the current incentive structure, grant funds would increase the residential and commercial turf replacement incentive from \$2 per square foot to \$3 per square foot while funding is available.

Recently, Metropolitan was awarded \$2 million for residential and commercial turf replacement projects through a grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Urban and Multibenefit Drought Funding Program. The DWR funds will also temporarily increase the residential and commercial turf replacement incentive from \$2 to \$3 per square foot. Once the DWR grant funding is exhausted, Metropolitan would transfer grant funding to the USBR WaterSMART grant, if awarded, as soon as possible.

The WaterSMART program requires the inclusion of a board resolution supporting grant proposals within 30 days of the application submittal date. The Board resolution documents the governing body's support of the application. The Board resolution acknowledges the support of the applications, authorizes the General Manager to accept funding, delegates authority to the General Manager to enter into a contract, recognizes that Metropolitan is capable of providing up to \$5 million in matching funds, and commits Metropolitan to work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines. The resolution does not obligate Metropolitan to accept funding. Metropolitan has the discretion to accept or decline potential funding after award.

## **Policy**

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Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8121: General Authority of the General Manager to Enter into Contracts Metropolitan Water District Administrative

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minute Item 51166, dated April 10, 2018, the Board authorized funding for the Landscape Transformation Program, and the Member Agency Administered Program

By Minute Item 50883, dated July 11, 2017, the Board adopted revised policy principles for guiding Metropolitan's role in regional implementation of IRP targets for conservation.

By Minute Item 50358, dated January 12, 2016, the Board adopted the 2015 IRP Update.

By Minute Item 48772, dated August 16, 2011, the Board adopted the Long-Term Conservation Plan and revisions to the water conservation policy principles.

## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

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### CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21065, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378) because it involves continuing administrative activities such as general policy and procedure making that will not cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, the proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

### CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

## Board Options

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### Option #1

Adopt the resolution to support Metropolitan's application for United States Bureau of Reclamation grant funding of \$5 million to provide supplemental funding for residential and commercial landscapes in the Turf Replacement Program:

- a. Authorize the General Manager to accept grant funds, if awarded.
- b. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with United States Bureau of Reclamation for the grant funds, if awarded.

**Fiscal Impact:** Addition of grant funds of \$5 million to existing Metropolitan funding would allow for more member agency local projects to be implemented to increase outdoor water efficiency.

**Business Analysis:** This grant would allow Metropolitan's funding to be used to reach more participants by enhancing Metropolitan's incentive for residential and commercial turf replacement.

### Option #2

Do not support or accept grant funding.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Business Analysis:** Without the grant funds, Metropolitan would reach fewer participants in the conservation program.

## Staff Recommendation

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### Option #1

  
 Brad Coffey  
 Manager, Water Resource Management

8/10/2022  
 Date

  
 Adel Hagekhalil  
 General Manager

8/11/2022  
 Date

**Attachment 1 – Resolution of the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in Support of its Proposal for Funding Under the WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for the Turf Replacement Program**

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF ITS PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING  
UNDER THE WATERSMART: WATER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS FOR THE  
TURF REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is requesting proposals for water use efficiency activities from the WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023; and

WHEREAS, the submittal of a proposal for grant funding by Metropolitan has been determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Sections 15378 (b)(4) and 15061 (b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California that the Board supports the proposal for the Turf Replacement Program under Reclamation's WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan's Board authorizes Metropolitan's General Manager to accept grant funding of up to \$5,000,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan's Board delegates legal authority to Metropolitan's General Manager to enter into an agreement with Reclamation, subject to the approval of the General Counsel, relevant to receipt of the requested WaterSMART grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan is capable of providing the amount of funding and/or in-kind contributions specified in the funding plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if selected for funding, Metropolitan will work with Reclamation to meet established program deadlines.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at its meeting held on August 16, 2022.

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Secretary of the Board of Directors  
of The Metropolitan Water District  
of Southern California

## One Water Committee



# Resolution Supporting Metropolitan's Application to the USBR WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program FY-2023 for the Turf Replacement Program

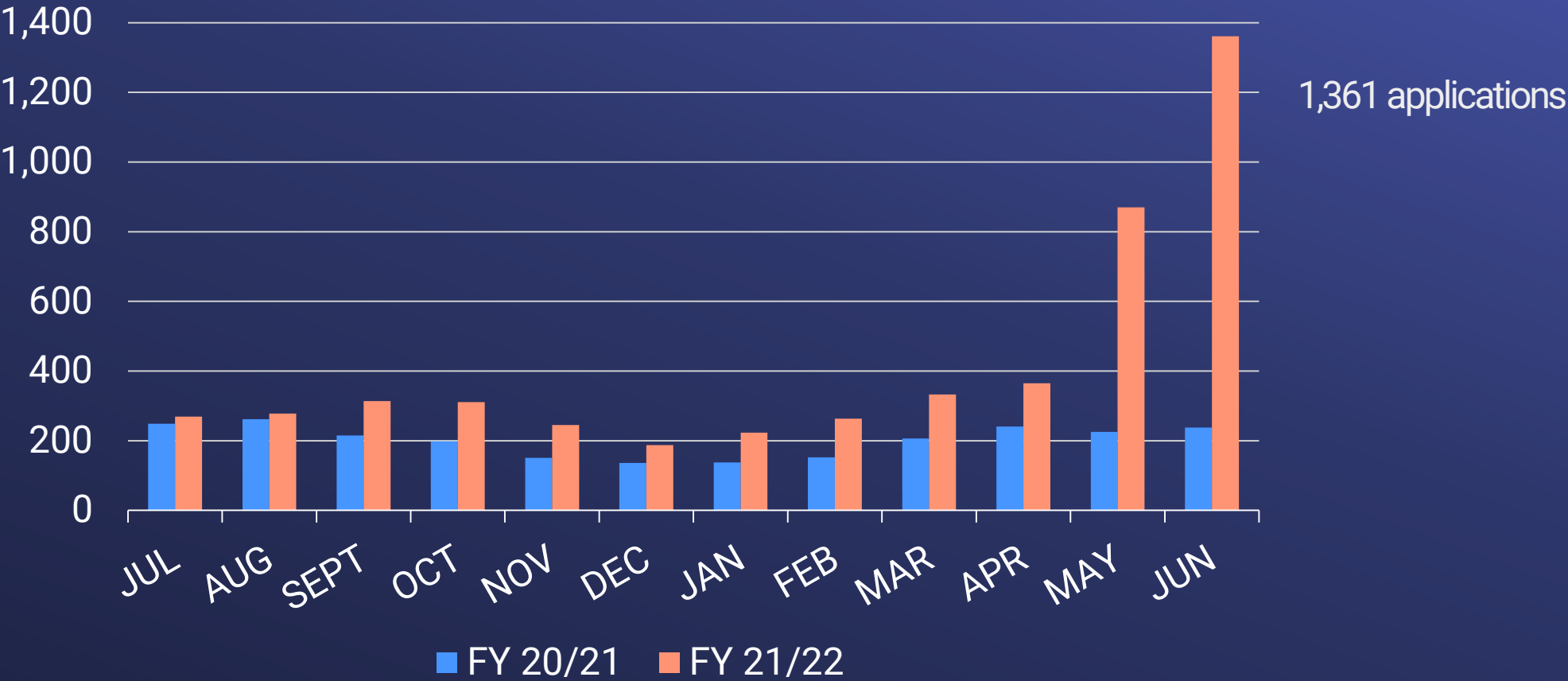
Item 7-14

August 15, 2022

## Recently Awarded Grants:

- USBR WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program FY 2022
  - \$2 million dollar grant
  - Public Agency Turf Replacement
- DWR Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief 2021
  - \$4.5 million dollars total
  - \$2 million – Residential and CII Turf Replacement
  - \$2.5 million – Residential Direct Install Program (SoCalGas Partnership)

# Residential & Commercial/Industrial/Institutional Turf Replacement Program Applications



Approximately 90% of applicants that complete their projects do so within 1 year

# USBR WaterSMART Grant Application

- \$5 million request to USBR submitted July 2022
  - \$5 million cost-share required from Metropolitan
- Funds will be used to increase RES and CII Turf Replacement incentive from \$2/sq. ft. to \$3/sq. ft.
- Board Resolution of Support required as soon as possible after application submittal
- Funding and project assistance will be available to all Member Agencies

# Board Options

- Option #1: Adopt the resolution to support Metropolitan's application for United States Bureau of Reclamation grant funding of \$5 million to provide supplemental funding for residential and commercial landscapes in the Turf Replacement Program;
  - Authorize the General Manager to accept grant funds, if awarded; and
  - Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with United States Bureau of Reclamation for the grant funds, if awarded.
- Option #2: Do not support or accept grant funding



# Staff Recommendation

- Option #1





- **Board of Directors**

- One Water (Conservation and Local Resources) Committee***

8/16/2022 Board Meeting

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9-3

## **Subject**

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Information on policy alternatives Metropolitan may consider for reducing non-functional turf in its service area

## **Executive Summary**

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As a result of the record drought in the Southwest and in response to adopted board policy, staff seeks feedback on policy alternatives to reduce the use of potable water for irrigating non-functional turf in the service area. Non-functional turf is defined by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as mowed grass that does not provide a recreational or community gathering purpose. Commonly this refers to commercial, industrial, and institutional properties (including multi-family housing and Homeowners Association-managed property.)

Staff seeks Board input and direction on the following policy alternatives to address non-functional turf:

1. Use existing or expanded financial incentives to encourage the replacement of non-functional turf.
2. Promote a model ordinance for voluntary adoption by local governments or agencies that bans watering of non-functional turf with potable water.
3. Establish a water allocation method that preferentially curtails imported water supply use on non-functional turf during a declared emergency.
4. Seek state legislation to permanently ban irrigation of non-functional turf with potable water (either statewide or within Metropolitan's service area) modeled after the SWRCB emergency regulation.

Staff believes that a combination of these actions would improve long-term water supply reliability for the region. Staff will return to the Board with preferred alternatives for further action in September 2022.

## **Details**

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### **Background**

Due to severe and persistent drought conditions, Metropolitan's Board declared a regional drought emergency in November 2021 and adopted an Emergency Water Conservation Program in April 2022 to address supply shortages in the State Water Project-dependent areas. Conditions on the Colorado River are equally concerning as both Lake Mead and Lake Powell are at their lowest historical levels. In June 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton announced that Colorado River water users need to reduce use by two- to four million-acre feet. It is clear that agencies need to permanently reduce potable water demand for all non-essential uses.

In November 2021, Metropolitan's Board adopted legislative priorities and principles for 2022 that included "support administrative/legislative actions and funding to improve water use efficiency through non-functional turf management." Metropolitan's current commercial Turf Replacement Program (TRP) is the focus of non-functional turf management activities. Following board direction, staff seeks to expand the options available for non-functional turf management.

In May, as part of the state's drought response, the SWRCB adopted an emergency regulation banning the irrigation of non-functional turf with potable water for all commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) properties throughout the state. This emergency regulation expires on June 14, 2023. In adopting this regulation, the state

acknowledged that irrigation of turf that is not used for recreational or community gathering purposes is an unnecessary use of water.

Southern California residents removed more than 200 million square feet of turf through Metropolitan's TRP. A recent study by Dr. Andrew Marx indicates that 96 percent of properties in Metropolitan's service area which convert from turf to California Friendly landscaping through Metropolitan's TRP maintain that landscaping over time. In addition, Metropolitan's multiplier study found that for every 100 landscapes that are installed using incentives, another 134 are installed without the use of an incentive payment. Both studies focused on residential properties, but these findings can be extended to commercial properties as well. It is expected that there would be a lower rate of reversion on commercial properties due to less frequent property sales. Therefore, the permanent ban on irrigation of non-functional turf and the continued effort to convert these areas to California Friendly landscaping would constitute a significant reduction in potable water demand.

### **Policy Alternatives to Reduce Potable Water Irrigation of Non-Functional Turf**

Staff identified four primary policy alternatives that could address the problem of continued use of potable water for irrigation of non-functional turf. These alternatives could be deployed singly or in combination.

#### ***Use existing or expanded incentives***

Metropolitan's TRP provides \$2 per square foot to CII properties that remove their turf and replace it with California Friendly landscaping. Recently awarded grants from the California Department of Water Resources will temporarily increase this incentive to \$3 per square foot. Metropolitan is also pursuing additional grants to further extend this higher incentive amount. Importantly, the current TRP essentially removes non-functional turf in the CII sector.

Since 1999 the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), a leader in turf removal incentive rebates, removed 200 million square feet of grass and saved 152 billion gallons of water through their own WaterSMART Landscapes program. However, in the last ten years, SNWA has seen conservation progress plateau. SNWA continues to invest in a turf replacement rebate, but they have noted diminished activity due to a decrease in CII customer participation. Additional incentives may be an option for SNWA if they want to continue to make gains in turf removal in the CII sector.

To make progress similar to SNWA, but in Southern California, Metropolitan's Board could consider additional funding for CII turf replacement for the duration of the State's emergency regulation. The synergy of prohibited watering and enhanced incentives could lead to the substantial conversion of turf. After that date or another date determined by the Board, the incentive would return to previous levels or could be phased out entirely should statewide regulations take effect requiring non-functional turf removal. The purpose of this modification would be to encourage early adoption and participation in the turf removal program prior to ordinance and/or legislation adoption.

#### ***Promote a model ordinance***

Staff could prepare draft language for an ordinance permanently banning the irrigation of non-functional turf with potable water. This language could include a recommendation requiring the removal of non-functional turf by a certain date and the prohibition of the installation of turf for all new development. Staff would conduct a legal review of any proposed language and consult with member agencies to develop the language. Staff would also bring to the Board for future action a resolution encouraging the adoption or insertion of this language by municipalities in their water conservation ordinances. In addition, with Board approval, staff could create a new enforcement category within the Member Agency Administered (MAA) program allowing member agencies to submit projects to fund non-functional turf ordinance/legislation enforcement activities.

#### ***Incorporate water allocation methodology that excludes imported water use on non-functional turf in emergencies***

During a water supply emergency, California Water Code Section 350 et seq. allows the adoption of regulations and restrictions to "conserve the water supply for the greatest public benefit with particular regard to domestic use, sanitation, and fire protection." In an emergency, Metropolitan could develop a water allocation methodology that identifies and prioritizes types of outdoor water use and excludes water needed for non-functional turf irrigation from any allocation of supply. Metropolitan is currently pursuing a study with Dr. Marx

to calculate all non-functional turf on CII property within the service area. The study is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. This methodology, however, will require additional data and coordination with the member agencies to determine if discriminating between water uses in this manner is a viable policy alternative. Metropolitan may need to supply additional funding or resources to assist with the data collection effort.

### ***Seek State legislation***

Another policy alternative is to seek state legislation that would ban non-functional turf in the CII sector by a certain date. This legislation could be sought for statewide application, or for Metropolitan's service area alone. The first-ever legislation banning non-functional turf was enacted in 2021 through Nevada Assembly Bill 356. This legislation bans the irrigation of non-functional turf with water from the Colorado River (essentially limiting it to the service area of SNWA). In January 2022, the SNWA board approved the recommendations of the Non-functional Turf Removal Advisory Committee, which included final definitions of functional and non-functional turf. SNWA is currently allocating additional staff and resources to meet the anticipated increase in demand for their WaterSMART Landscapes rebate as they work to incentivize non-functional turf removal ahead of the 2027 deadline. SNWA expects to outlay over \$300 million in incentives over the next five years using capital funding and a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

On June 10, 2022, the SWRCB ban on irrigating non-functional turf on CII properties went into effect. The current emergency regulation provides a window of opportunity to introduce similar legislation in California. Governor Newsom and the SWRCB have acknowledged that banning irrigation of non-functional turf with potable water is an effective and appropriate action to decrease water demand from a non-essential use. Legislation that requires a statewide ban would take the burden off cities and municipalities to pass local ordinances and provide additional enforcement authority. In addition, new legislation would provide clear messaging that would ensure higher levels of compliance. If directed to do so, staff will begin the process to develop legislation which could be submitted in the next legislative cycle.

### **Next Steps**

Based on board feedback, staff will refine the policy options and begin implementation of one or a combination of them.

### ***Use existing or expanded incentives***

Staff would develop and propose a revised TRP with a temporarily increased incentive and de-escalating structure. Staff would also develop an estimate of program length based on current budget availability and a projection of the budget needed to achieve program goals.

### ***Promote a model ordinance***

Staff would consult with member agencies to review and refine the language based on their feedback and further legal review. Staff would bring to the Board for future action a resolution encouraging the adoption or insertion of this language by municipalities in their water conservation ordinances. Finally, staff would bring back for board approval a new enforcement category within the MAA program allowing member agencies to submit projects to fund NFT ordinance/legislation enforcement activities.

### ***Incorporate water allocation methodology that excludes imported water use on non-functional turf during an emergency***

Staff would further develop and scope the effort to gather needed information to delineate between outdoor water uses. Staff will work with member agencies to determine a timeline for data collection and submittal.

***Seek state legislation***

Staff would begin the process to develop legislation which could be submitted in the next legislative cycle.

**Policy**

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By Minute Item 52802, dated April 26, 2022, the Board adopted a resolution which declared a Water Shortage Emergency Condition and established an Emergency Water Conservation Program for the State Water Project dependent area.

By Minute Item 52579, dated November 9, 2021, the Board adopted Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2022 that included improving water efficiency through non-functional turfgrass management.

By Minute Item 52581, dated November 9, 2021, the Board adopted a resolution which declared specified emergency conditions within the Metropolitan service area.

By Minute Item 49542, dated September 10, 2013, the Board authorized new conservation program initiatives.

By Minute Item 49068, dated May 8, 2012, the Board authorized changes to Metropolitan's water conservation program.

By Minute Item 48772, dated August 16, 2011, the Board adopted the Long-Term Conservation Plan and revisions to the water conservation policy principles.

**Fiscal Impact**

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Any increase in the Turf Replacement Program incentive would increase spending from the approved FY 2022/23 and FY 2023/24 demand management budget and may potentially require additional funding to be allocated at a level deemed appropriate by the Board.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Coffey  
Manager, Water Resource Management

8/12/2022  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adel Hagekhalil  
General Manager

8/12/2022  
Date

Ref# wrm12686277



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



# Proposed Water Allocation Methodology

## 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









One Water Committee

# Conservation Program Update

Item 6b

August 15, 2022

# Conservation Program Expenditures FYs 2020/21 & 2021/22 <sup>(1)</sup>

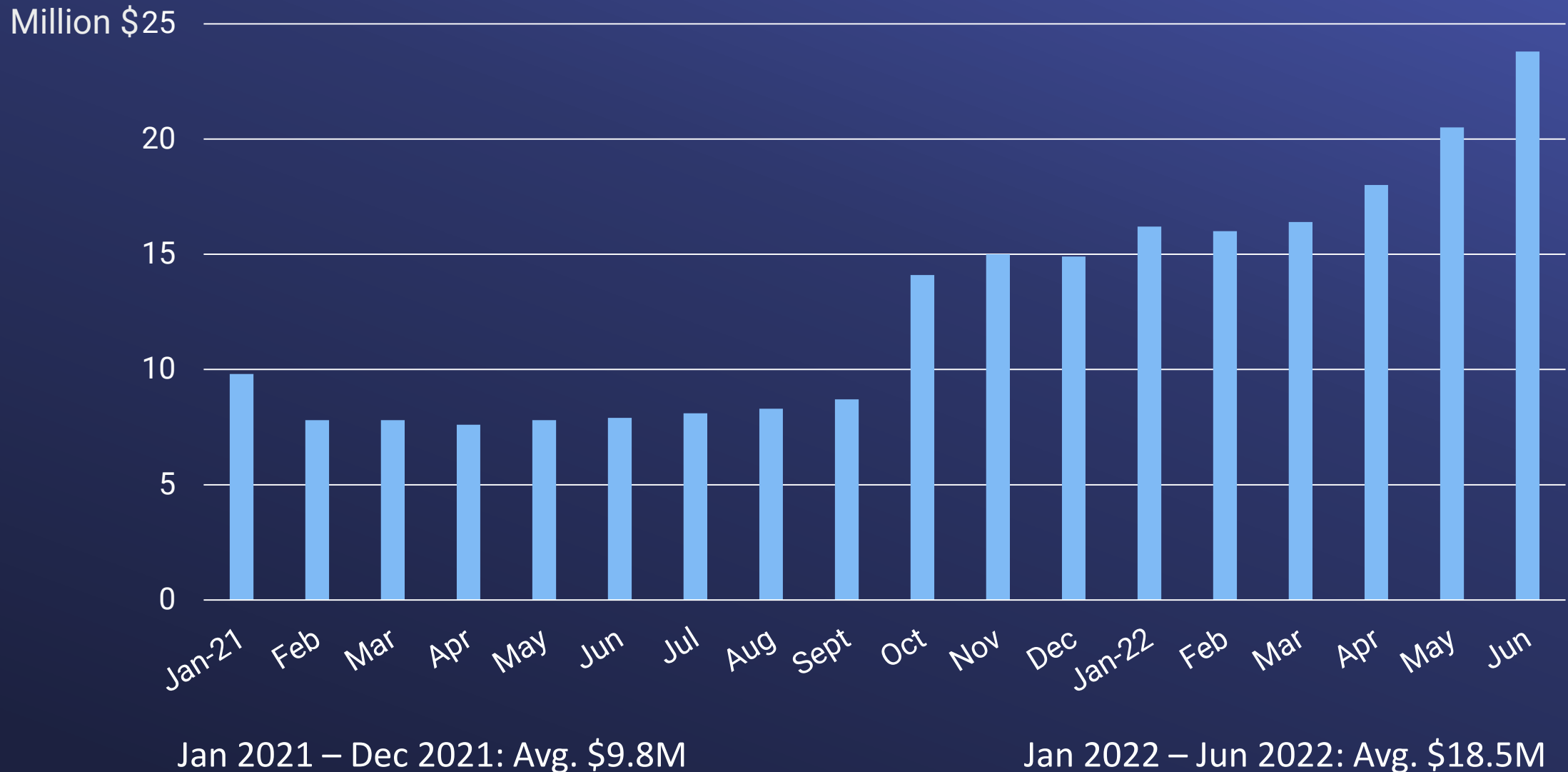
	Paid <sup>(2)</sup>	Committed <sup>(3)</sup>
Regional Devices	\$7.6M	\$7.2M
Member Agency Administered	\$8.0M	\$1.7M
Turf Replacement	\$17.4M	\$23.8M
Advertising	\$4.6M	-
Other	\$2.9M	\$1.0M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40.5M</b>	<b>\$33.7M</b>

(1) The Conservation Program biennial expenditure authorization was \$86M and expected expenditures for rate setting purposes were \$50M.

(2) As of 7/1/2020 –6/30/2022.

(3) Committed dollars as of July 10, 2022.

# Turf Committed Dollars are Rising Steadily



# Conservation Program Activity FYs 2020/21 & 2021/22



## **Turf Replacement Rebates:**

June: 817,719 ft<sup>2</sup> removed

**FY2020/21-FY2021/22: 9,177,381 ft<sup>2</sup> removed**



## **Smart Controllers:**

June: 3,369 units rebated

**FY2020/21-FY2021/22: 26,992 units rebated**



## **Sprinkler Nozzles:**

June: 4,110 units rebated

**FY2020/21-FY2021/22: 60,464 units rebated**



## **Clothes Washers:**

June: 512 units rebated

**FY2020/21-FY2021/22: 31,577 units rebated**



## **Toilets:**

June: 2,833 units rebated

**FY2020/21-FY2021/22: 23,848 units rebated**

# Review FY 2020/21 & 2021/22 Biennium Activity

## Next month

- Device and turf replacement rebate trends
- Local project highlights
- Efforts to accelerate conservation







One Water Committee

# Initial Results from Household Water Use Study

Item 6c

August 15, 2022

# Household Water Use Study



## Background

- Devices included in residential leak detection rebate program (Flume is one accepted manufacturer)
- Self - installed on water meter to capture indoor and outdoor use
- Real-time water use and detection
- 6,010 total devices (1,887 in SWP dependent area)



# Household Water Use Study

## Study Methodology

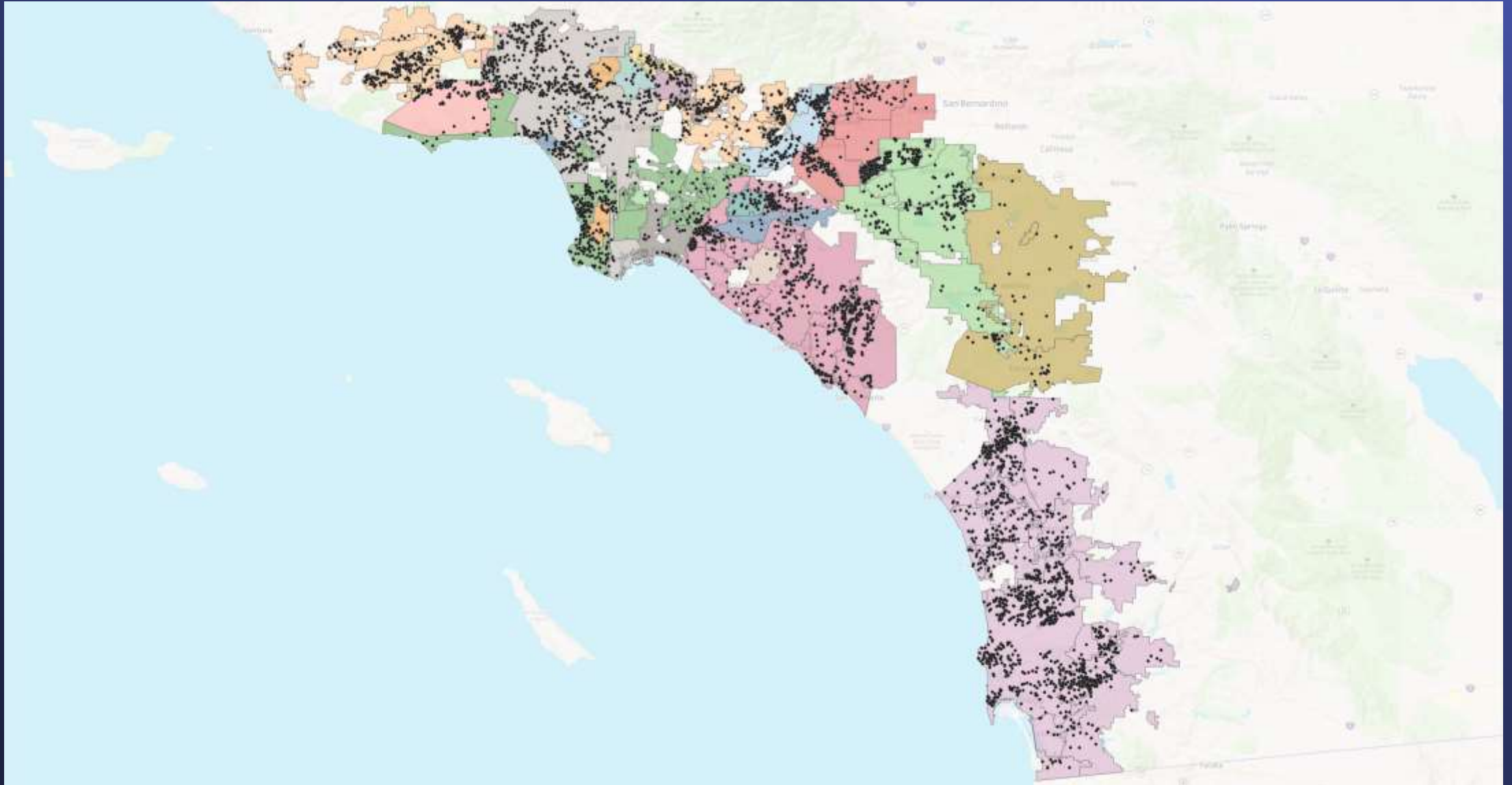
- Water use type determined by water signature
  - Smart technology continually learns use patterns
  - Breakdown of indoor and outdoor use
- Analyzed aggregate water use patterns for MWD service area

# Household Water Use Study

## Study Considerations

- Customers are self-selected
- Higher than average income
  - Indoor use similar to general population
  - Outdoor use higher than general population
- Household demographics are self-reported

# Over 6,000 Devices Installed in MWD Service Area



# Demographics

Number of Households	6,014
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Average Home Age	42.6 years
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Avg. Number of Residents	3.2
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Avg. Lot Size	21,033 Sq Ft
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Median Lot Size	8,465 Sq Ft
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Avg. Home Size	2,570 Sq Ft
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# Indoor and Outdoor Gallons per Household per Day



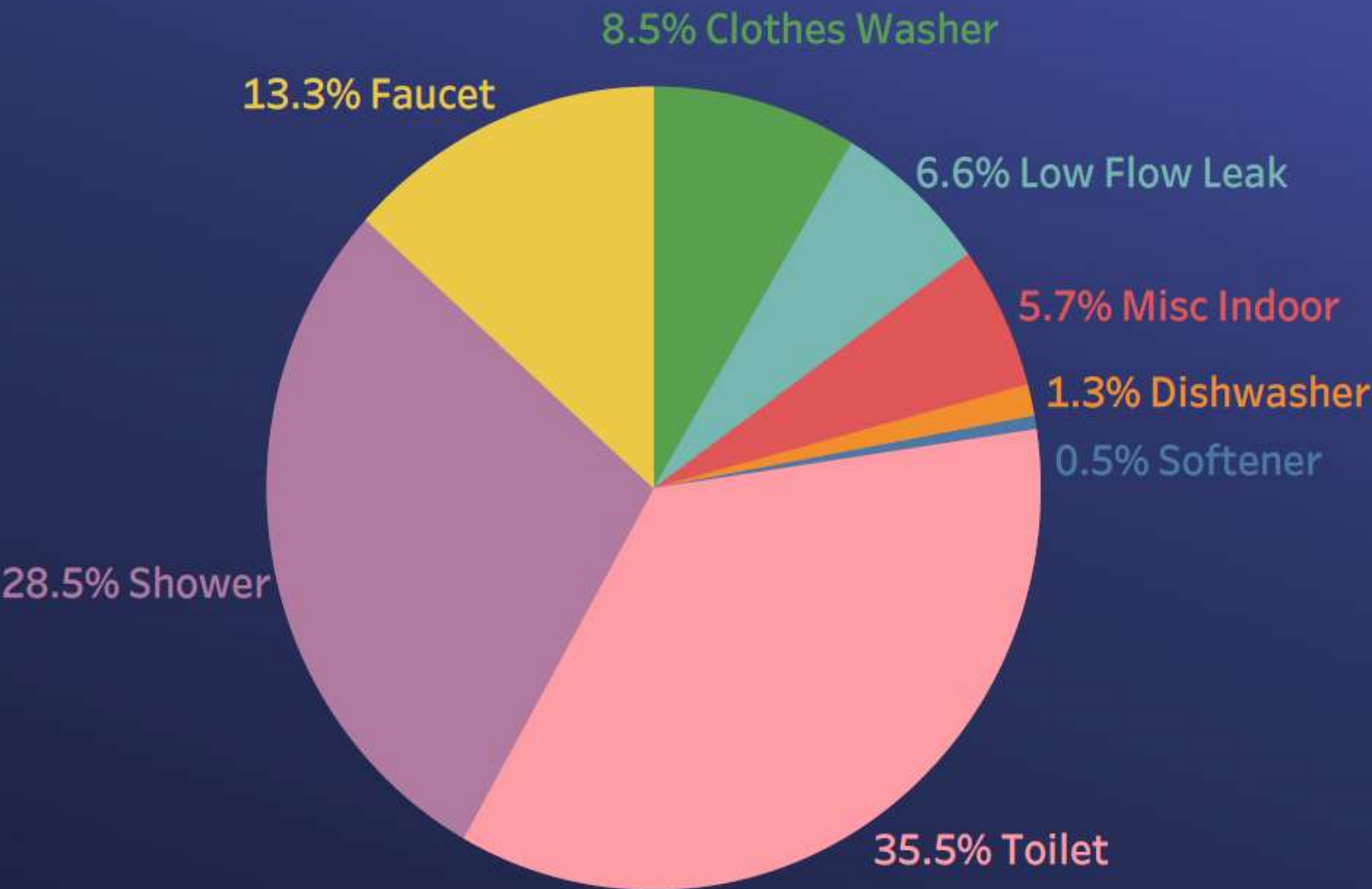
# Indoor Use Analysis (GPCD)

# Indoor GPCD Average Lower Than CAAWOL Objective





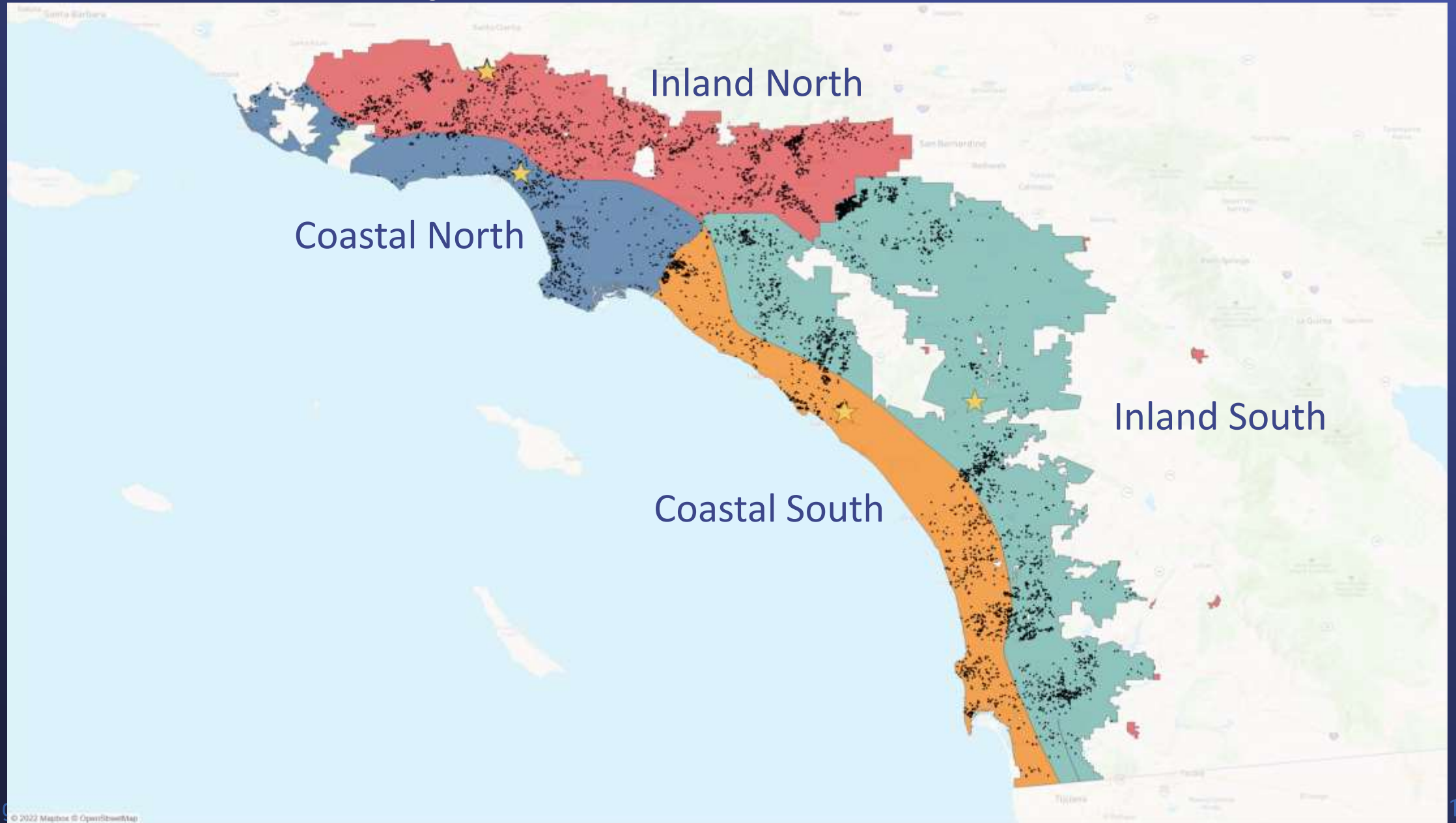
# Indoor Water Use Breakdown





# Outdoor Use Analysis (GPHD)

# Climate Zone Analysis



# Customers Respond When It Rains

Climate Zone: Coastal South



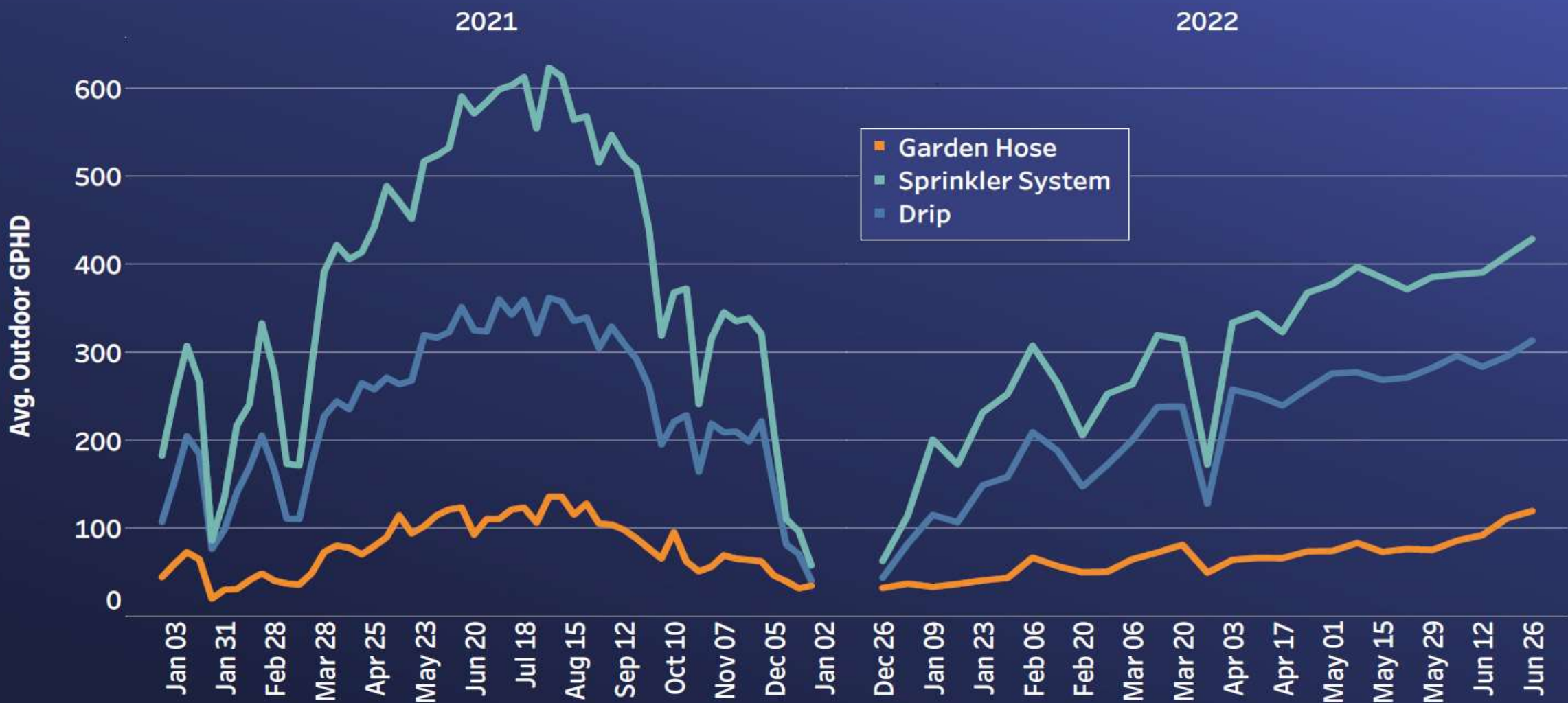
# Customers Respond When It Rains

Climate Zone: Inland North

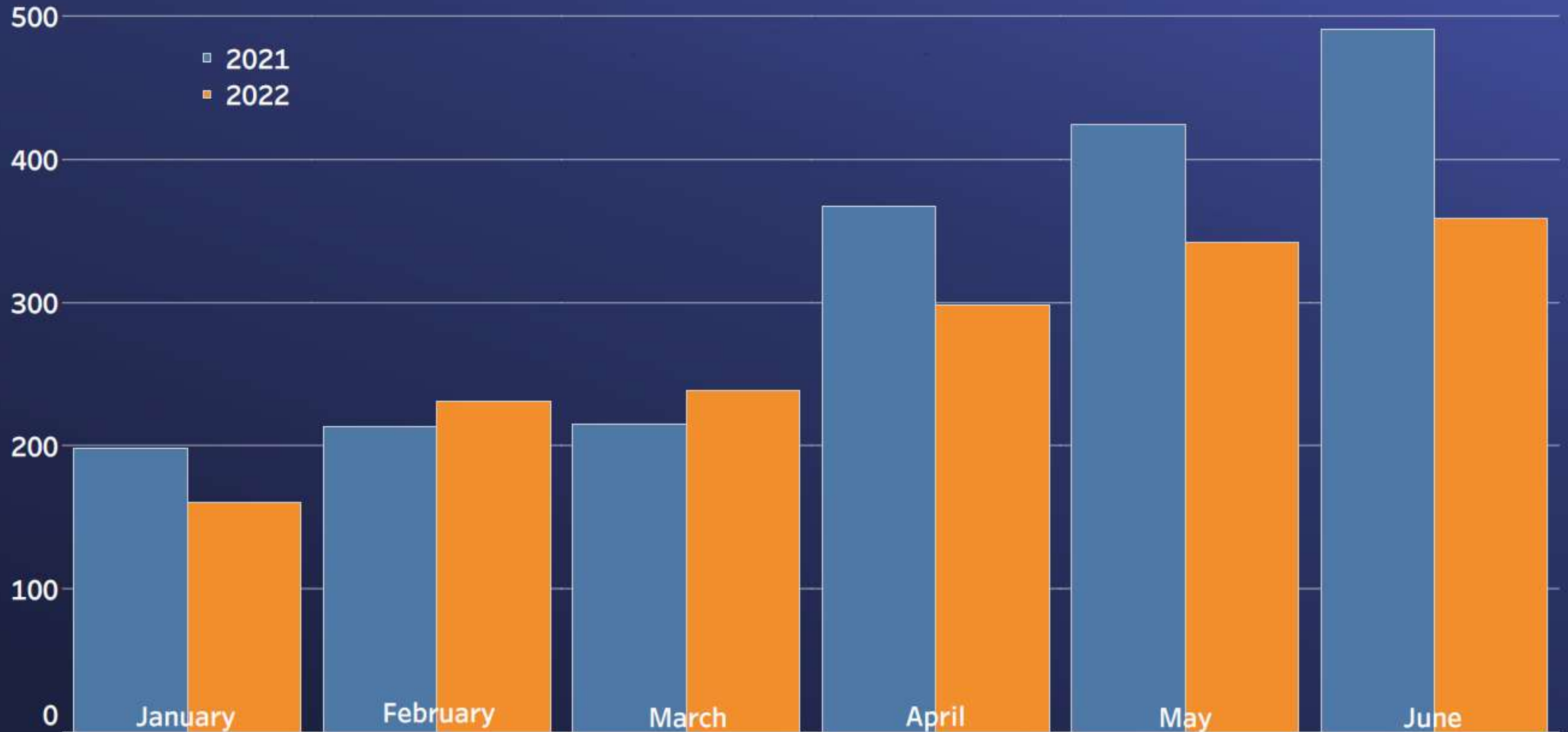




# Large Variation in Water Use by Irrigation Type



# AVG Outdoor GPHD Decreased from 2021 to 2022



# Number of Irrigation Days Follows Seasonal Pattern



# Average Irrigation Days per Household Declining in SWP Dependent Area

*SWP Dependent Households*





# Outdoor household water use is declining compared to 2021 (limited data before 2021)



# Greater reduction in household water use for SWP-Dependent Areas

*SWP Dependent Households*



# Household Water Use Study

## Key Findings

- Indoor use is flat indicating high level of saturation with indoor conserving devices
- Significant differences observed in outdoor use based on irrigation type
- Continued need for irrigation upgrades
- Outdoor use is dropping service area wide and in SWP dependent areas
  - Effective drought messaging
  - SWP dependent area restrictions

# Household Water Use Study

## Next Steps

- Study continues through end of 2022
- Board update in the Fall with complete summer analysis
  - MWD service area
  - SWP Dependent areas
  - DAC analysis
- Continued marketing of residential leak program to increase number of devices

