

Upcoming Changes in Landscaping Regulations

Nonfunctional Turf (AB 1572)

Commercial, Industrial & Institutional Properties

AB 1572

In September 2023, legislation prohibiting the use of potable water for the irrigation of nonfunctional turf on commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) properties passed the State Senate. This regulation applies to turf (mowed grass) that is decorative and has no other function, such as recreation. This includes turf located in road medians as well as turf outside businesses and in neighborhood entrances and sign areas that is not used for recreation. This ban is a step by the legislature to help California move towards achieving urban water-use regulations and water use efficiency standards.

The irrigation ban does **not** apply to:

- residential (single and multi-family lawns)
- sports fields
- picnic areas and other areas regularly used for civic or community events
- cemeteries and areas irrigated with recycled water

Implementation Timeline

The ban on the irrigation of nonfunctional turf takes effect in stages for CII landscapes.

- 2027 - Properties owned by local governments
- 2028 - Commercial and industrial properties
- 2029 - Common areas of homeowners' associations (does **not** include community gathering spaces/recreation areas and front yard residential areas irrigated by the HOA)
- 2031 - Properties owned by local governments in disadvantaged communities

How Does the Regulation Affect Trees?

The regulation does not restrict the watering of trees, just turf. Although most mature trees often require little to no irrigation, some species do. Please continue to water trees, even while reducing or stopping the irrigation of turf. Trees that are just getting established may need to be watered more frequently, including hand watering. Trees near or on non-functional turf could be impacted by some responses to the ban on turf irrigation, but the regulation allows continued irrigation of trees even if turf, such as turf under trees, will receive water.



Climate-Ready Landscapes

To prepare for the upcoming irrigation ban on nonfunctional turf, consider proactively converting these areas to climate-ready landscapes. Climate-ready landscapes are designed and maintained to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and weather more extreme conditions. They can:

- Save water
- Reduce waste
- Nurture soil
- Sequester carbon
- Reduce urban heat
- Create habitat for pollinators
- Conserve energy
- Protect air and water quality



For More Information on Nonfunctional Turf, Lawn Conversion and Tree Care
visit: www.NonFunctionalTurfCA.org

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