Demand Management Measures Independent Technical Panel November 19, 2014

American Society of Irrigation Consultants

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ASIC Organization background

- American Society of Irrigation Consultants
- To enhance the role of the independent professional irrigation consultant as the unbiased advocate of the client. Our responsibility is to provide objective irrigation consulting services for the effective use and management of water and other natural resources.
- Served on BOD since 2003, National Past President
- Work with other irrigation professionals throughout the State and country including designers, consultants, architects, water managers, water agencies, academia, and students on the advancement of irrigation and water use efficiencies in the landscape industry

ASIC's approach to landscape water conservation?

- Professional membership includes top irrigation and water resource management consultants in the State and country
- Yearly conference with topics and educational outreach to the membership and general public on the advancement of water resource management
- Network of professional practice and principles
- Participation in development of BMP's including the Irrigation Association, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities
- Landscape water conservation is approached by:
  - Assessing net water needs
  - Resource supplement or development
  - Advisement of demand reduction to the architect
  - Efficient application of irrigation
  - Management practices and specifications to maintain the design intent to the end user

Conservation communication to your membership?

- Local (North and South) California chapter meetings with 5-6 meetings yearly
- Educational topics regarding technology and practices with irrigation, horticulture, soils, water use, code compliance, and professional experience.
- Annual meeting for national group
- Quarterly newsletter "Waterfront"
- Excellence in Irrigation Awards program honoring members or non-members on application of water conservation. Program judged by independent academia committee
- Web forum / Facebook / Linkedin
- Sense of heightened responsibility to water resource management within the organization

Successes to achieve landscape water conservation goals and objectives?

- Transfer of knowledge and professional practice
- Participation on panels, committees and other green industry organizations to improve cross over of knowledge throughout
- Moving water usage to the forefront of the landscape design process that allows the promotion of the following:
  - Minimum 70% Eto factor
  - Advanced water budgeting analysis
  - Functional turf
  - Efficient application methods (drip and other technologies)
  - Lower water use plant palettes
  - Water resource development – harvesting / storage
  - Improved sensing and control application
  - BMP's for larger landscape stakeholders
  - Development of BMP's for smaller stakeholders (homeowner)

Current challenges to achieve conservation goals and objectives

- Consistency in Ordinance
  - Interpretation of State requirement
  - Differing opinions on interpretation of local requirements
- Cost to prepare documentation increased
- Requirements non-effective
  - Water days per week with weather based controls
  - 24 inch setback for overhead spray
  - Monthly water schedules for establishment and established landscape – redundancy with smart controls
  - Carryover from design intent to long term maintenance
  - Enforcement of audits

Anticipated challenges to achieve conservation goals and objectives

- Internal to Organization
  - Consistency in the ordinances
  - Cost of additional paperwork in design process
- External to Organization
  - Public shift to accept appearance of lower water use plant palettes
  - Proper design and maintenance of drip irrigation
  - Education on use of weather based controls
  - Cost of weather based controls
  - Proper use of harvested water – grey or rainwater

Conservation practices you recommend to the ITP

- Smart timers negate need for cycle based restrictions
- Eliminate 24 inch offset requirement
  - Wasteful use of installation costs that can be use for other methods of conservation
  - Negates use of functional turf in smaller spaces (parkways)
- Eliminate use of drip and/or turf in spaces 8 feet or smaller
  - Provide directive on elimination of overspray or run-off
- Promote use of high efficiency spray devices as alternate technology in turf
  - The irrigation industry has reacted and will continue to react to provide solutions to a requirement
- Provide direction in the ordinance to focus more on the goal and less with the objective.
  - Promotes less constrictive design, innovation, and creativity
- Increased number of CIMIS (non-ideal) locations
- Homeowner efficiency
- Nuisance water harvesting, treatment, supplement