

SECTION 11:

RECOMMENDATION #1: Executive Leadership

Background

In the face of the most severe drought conditions since California became a state, Governor Brown has provided clear and effective leadership. Through a series of Executive Orders beginning in January 2014, the Governor has acknowledged and acted upon the need to curtail water use in the face of shortage and to make permanent improvements in water efficiency to prepare the state for further droughts to come. In April 2015, he was especially candid in his comments about the need to curtail landscape water use. The remarkable response of the people of California is due in no small part to the Governor's effective communication of the need for action by individual citizens and by [local and](#) state agencies.

Even before the current drought had reached its most severe proportions, Executive Branch agencies were ~~enlisted~~ directed to prepare a *"Water Action Plan."*¹ The first recommended action in the plan is –

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"Make conservation a California way of life."

The plan further states that: "We must continue to build on our existing efforts to conserve water and promote the innovation of new systems for increased water conservation."

In the 2016 Update, the Plan makes clear that additional water-conserving strategies are needed: "Even after the current drought emergency recedes, we must continue to build on our efforts to conserve water and promote innovative strategies for increased water conservation."²

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Much has been accomplished, but much more can be done [to increase water use efficiency in the state](#). Under the clear guidance of the EO B-29-15 in April 2015, the Department of Water Resources quickly adopted major improvements in the state Model ~~water~~ Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, and the California Energy Commission adopted landmark improvements in water efficiency standards for plumbing products, to name just two very significant accomplishments.

While executive orders operate within the framework of existing law, their clear direction to state agencies can bring new energy to tasks that might otherwise languish due to administrative inertia, competing priorities, or budgetary limitations. An executive order can resolve doubts about priorities and align agencies toward complementary solutions to complex challenges. That is precisely what is called for in this report.

The Independent Technical Panel Recommends That:

¹ http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california_water_action_plan/2014_California_Water_Action_Plan.pdf

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² [California Water Action Plan 2016 Update,](http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california_water_action_plan/2016_California_Water_Action_Plan_Update.pdf)

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http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california_water_action_plan/Final_California_Water_Action_Plan.pdf

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Before the end of this year, the Governor issue an executive order containing each of the Panel's recommendations for state agency action that do not require new legislation, with individual directives to each respective agency, specifically the administrative actions proposed in each of the following –

<u>Recommendation Number & Topic</u>	<u>Recommendation Summary</u>
<u>4</u> <u>Voluntary turf replacements</u>	<u>The ITP proposes a five-year statewide turf replacement in the form of a tax credit to encourage landscape upgrades.</u>
<u>5-2</u> <u>Irrigation system evaluation at multifamily, commercial and industrial sites</u>	<u>The ITP proposes to require regular inspection and reporting of irrigation system performance of multi-family, commercial and industrial landscapes.</u>
<u>5-3</u> <u>Required improvements in existing landscapes at publically owned facilities</u>	<u>The ITP proposes to require retrofit of publically owned customer service buildings from traditional landscape at a rate of 10% per year, and retrofit of all other publically owned buildings or facilities within 20 years.</u>
<u>6-1</u> <u>State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO)</u>	<u>The ITP proposes a series of future revisions to strengthen MWELO, expand MWELO's scope and impact, and improve MWELO's revision process</u>
<u>6-2</u> <u>MWELO Revision: Aligning with CalGreen Title 24 Revision Process</u>	
<u>6-3</u> <u>State Facility leadership for New Landscapes</u>	<u>The ITP proposes that new landscapes at State facilities follow the watershed approach in landscape planning and operation. State owned landscapes should serve as demonstrations with educational signage.</u>
<u>7-1A</u> <u>Product Standards for Irrigation Equipment: Controllers</u>	<u>The ITP proposes that the California Energy Commission (CEC) adopt Title 20 standards for irrigation controllers.</u>
<u>7-1B</u> <u>Product Standards for Irrigation Equipment: Sprinkler Bodies</u>	<u>The ITP proposes that the CEC adopt performance standards for irrigation emission devices that cover subjects not previously addressed by other product standards.</u>
<u>7-2</u> <u>Permit Required for Irrigation System Installation</u>	<u>The ITP proposes that a written permit from the local agency be obtained when a new or retrofitted irrigation system is installed.</u>
<u>7-4</u> <u>Piloting Connection Charges that Promote Landscape Efficiency</u>	<u>The ITP proposes that DWR:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>• develop guidance for use by local water suppliers to inform local decisions regarding connection charges.</u> <u>• develop a grant solicitation to fund innovation in differentiated connection charges.</u> <u>Informed water suppliers with connections charges should:</u>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>aim to achieve MWELO water efficiencies within their service areas.</u>
<u>7-5</u> <u>Plant Labeling</u>	<p>The ITP proposes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) revise regulations to require all plant taxa sold in California be identified at point of sale by water using a DWR approved process.</u> • <u>Labels must remain on plants at landscape job sites until project is inspected and approved.</u> • <u>DWR, in consultation with academia and stakeholders, will develop the labeling program.</u>
<u>7-7</u> <u>Upgrades to CIMIS</u>	<p>The ITP recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>DWR request and the Governor propose that the State Budget fund improvements to CIMIS by providing \$3 million/year.</u> • <u>CIMIS should be expanded by installing more reporting stations, increasing program staff, upgrading system technologies, and user interface, and providing an incentive to landowners with suitable station locations.</u>
<u>8-1</u> <u>Certification of Professionals</u>	<p>The ITP proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>requiring continuing education units (CEUs) for landscape professionals. The recommendation has not been drafted.</u> • <u>Responsible agencies may include DWR, the Department of Consumer Affairs, and CSLB. Academic institutions may also be involved in providing training.</u> • <u>The proposal will address the need to reconcile issues of landscape professionals and designers. It may also address the need for State funding.</u>
<u>8-2</u> <u>C-27 Examination Questions</u>	<p>The ITP recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>the State Legislature direct the Department of Consumers Affairs to require the California State Licensing Board (CSLB), working with the California Landscape Contractors Association, revise the C-27 Landscape Contractors trade exam to include questions on MWELO, water use efficiency, and sustainable practices.</u>
<u>9-1</u> <u>Defining Professionals: Outreach & Information</u>	<p>The ITP proposes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>resources and examples for installing low-water use landscapes be made available to homeowners.</u> • <u>DWR will have primary responsibility and seek input academia, CUWCC, industry</u>

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	<p><u>representatives, and others to create an educational campaign.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>There is a significant marketing component to this recommendation.</u>
<p><u>10-1</u> <u>Research Needs and Support</u></p>	<p>The ITP recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>the State Legislature appropriate \$5 million and direct DWR to identify and fund priority research needs that will result in water conservation.</u> • <u>An industry stakeholder committee will assist with defining requirements for proposal solicitation.</u>
<p><u>10-2</u> <u>Water Use Classification of Landscape Species IV (WUCOLS IV) Support</u></p>	<p>The ITP proposes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act be amended to direct DWR to update WUCOLS no less frequently than every 3 years, and</u> • <u>to provide a photograph, narrative description, and key cultural information for each plant taxa.</u>

X.

Y.

Z. [list relevant recommendations by section and title]