



News for Immediate Release

May 4, 2012

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California Water Conservation Efforts Get Top National Ranking

SACRAMENTO -- California's laws and policies promoting water use efficiency have received national recognition.

The State received top marks from the non-profit Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) in a new draft report ranking all 50 states on policies such as water conservation requirements, conservation planning and program implementation, funding sources for water efficiency and conservation programs, and other informational resources. California ranked first, along with Texas, on the report's scorecard. Both states got a grade of "A-."

"The Department of Water Resources is proud to have played a leading role in promoting water use efficiency, in particular through the development and implementation of the 20x2020 Water Conservation Plan," said Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director Mark Cowin. "It's gratifying to know that our efforts may provide a framework for other states to follow."

California has a long history of laws, policies and practices that promote water conservation. The California Water Plan acknowledges the importance of water conservation as an element of statewide water management.

A Gubernatorial directive in 2008 to reduce statewide per capita urban water use by 20 percent by the year 2020 led to the development and implementation of the

20x2020 Plan, the Save Our Water public information campaign, as well as other water-use efficiency programs.

In November 2009, California placed the 20x2020 goal along with other water use efficiency requirements into statute with the enactment of SBX7 7 (Steinberg), as part of an historic package of water reforms.

The report authors say they hope the rankings bring attention to exemplary policies that may be used as models for other states to emulate and create friendly and healthy competition among states in regard to water use efficiency and conservation efforts.

"The Water Efficiency and Conservation State Scorecard: An Assessment of Laws and Policies" may be viewed [here](#).

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.