



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2016

**Contact:**

**Elizabeth Scott, Information Officer - (916) 712-3904**  
**Elizabeth.Scott@water.ca.gov**

**DWR invests \$681,739 in Bakersfield's Water and Energy Savings Project**  
***Funding helps City of Bakersfield respond to current and future droughts***

**BAKERSFIELD** -- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) today ceremoniously awarded the City of Bakersfield more than \$600,000, using proceeds from California's cap-and-trade program for combating climate change. The money will fund the installation of a state-of-art water and energy saving irrigation system across the city.

The City of Bakersfield's parks irrigation system will be upgraded to reduce runoff and total water usage through the installation of smart irrigation control systems in up to 22 parks. A field weather station, communicating back to system controls, regulates irrigation based on site specific conditions and local weather.

The system is estimated to save the City more than 768 million gallons of water, more than 2 million kilowatt hours of energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 589 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents over the life of the project.

"While recent downpours are a reminder that California's current historic drought will likely one day end, the City of Bakersfield has taken a leadership role in recognizing that another drought will begin in just a matter of time, and water conservation should be a way of life in our Golden State," said DWR Supervising Engineering Geologist Dane Mathis.

The \$681,739 grant from the California Department of Water Resources to the City of Bakersfield is one of 22 grants awarded from a field of 92 applicants for the first round funding through DWR's Water-Energy Grant Program. The California Climate Investment Program, with money from California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, provides a mechanism for DWR and other State agencies to develop programs for investing in projects that reduce carbon pollution while also creating jobs, improving air quality and providing other benefits, such as energy and water savings.

Cap-and-trade proceeds go into California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Health and Safety Code §39710 et seq.) and through the budget process are allocated to several State agencies for investments in California communities to reduce greenhouse

gases. Funds for DWR's Water-Energy Grant Program were appropriated by the 2014 Drought legislation (Senate Bill 103 Section 11 2013-2014 Reg. Sess.) and through AB 91 (Committee on Budgets, 2015-2016 Reg. Sess.). An additional \$9 million in Local Assistance funding was authorized as part of the 2015 Drought legislation.

DWR's Water-Energy Grant Program provides funding to support the implementation of residential, commercial and institutional water efficiency programs or projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also reduce water and energy usage. The grants will help California respond to the immediate drought while building resiliency to cope with future droughts and climate change.

The 22 grants DWR awarded across the state this year fund 25 projects that will save Californians an estimated 270,000 acre-feet of water and prevent the release of approximately 199,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change. More than 70 percent of the statewide funding will provide benefits to disadvantaged communities that are targeted for investments from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

For additional information on DWR's Water-Energy Grant Program, visit <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterenergygrant/index.cfm>.

To learn more about California's Climate Investment Program, visit <http://www.climateinvestmentmap.ca.gov/Home/About>

-30-

While the early winter rain and snowpack are promising, this may yet prove to be a fifth consecutive year of drought in California. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit [Drought.CA.gov](http://Drought.CA.gov). Every Californian should take steps to conserve water; find out how at [SaveOurWater.com](http://SaveOurWater.com).



