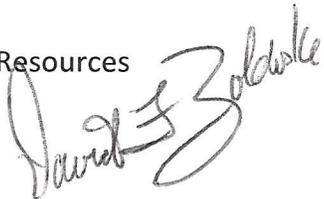


## Memorandum

**To:** Ms. Julie Saare-Edmonds  
California Department of Water Resources

**From:** Dr. David Zoldoske, Director  
Center for Irrigation Technology 

**Date:** 3/14/2016

**Re:** Response to the Independent Technical Panel (ITP) on  
Landscape Water Use Efficiency

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I am writing this letter to reflect the experiences and views of the Center for Irrigation Technology (CIT), specifically on the issue of Soil Moisture Sensor (SMS) efficacy. I have been an active participant in landscape irrigation technology for over 30 years and served as the Vice-Chair (2005) of the AB2717 State Task Force on Landscape Irrigation. When I read the ITP's recommendation that ***"stand-alone SMS-based controllers ought not to be sold in California"***, it gave me pause to wonder about the committee's background and/or motives to make such statements.

CIT has done extensive work in developing SMS testing protocols and conducting multiple years of research on the reliability and repeatability of SMS technology. CIT has worked closely with EPA WaterSense on developing Controller Standards. Our findings were that most of today's SMS can be reliably calibrated to manage targeted soil moisture conditions over a range of soils types and salinity levels. The biggest challenge has been to design a SMS testing standard that can be done in a reasonable timeline and cost. I believe the question on whether SMS work has been answered with a "YES".

In closing, the Center for Irrigation Technology strongly encourages the DWR to omit any recommendations that call for a ban on the sales of SMS based controllers in California. Finally, CIT stands in support of recommendations submitted by both the Irrigation Association and the American Society of Irrigation Consultants. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about my comments.