

I am always surprised when I see written comments that state something to the effect that "residential water users will be required to decrease water use by 25% compared to what has been used in some prior time period". In my opinion, this is grossly unfair and largely unworkable.

It rewards the people that have used and wasted large amounts of water in the past and have made little or no effort to conserve water. On the flip side, it punishes those who have made serious reductions in water usage in the interest of preserving this precious resource, and by so doing, have already used up much of what they can ultimately save. I suggest that, instead, guidelines and/or regulations should integrate multiple criteria, such as a base amount of water for each residence, plus additional amounts for such things as the number of people living at a residence, the amount of owned real estate that may be considered as baseline for a small lawn, as well as, perhaps, additional criteria such as past water amount usage, amount of water saving/reduction accomplished in the last 3-4 years and establishing a baseline "ideal water usage" for a typical model home that has focused attention on water saving equipment and habits and patterns. Let us not reward the water users that waste water and use much larger amounts than do typical water-saving conscientious home owners.

Good luck in drafting water saving / reduction criteria. It is an immensely important effort. I can't imagine turning on a water faucet and having nothing come out.