Marina Coast
Water District

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LANDCAPE REBATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
(Irrigation Controllers)

Landscape Rebate Requirements – Irrigation Controllers

Below are the key requirements for the project.

1. The irrigation system must be in a good state of repair so that the water is being used efficiently. (Examples of unacceptable waste are excessive water hitting non-plant areas, excessive water in some areas or too little in others, or pooling water from ineffective spray.)
2. A backflow prevention device must be present and installed as required by law
3. Abandoned or inoperative irrigation system components must be removed, and the associated water supply lines capped.
4. Water use of the new landscape must be lower than that of the landscape replaced.
5. Irrigation systems for non-residential landscapes over 1,000 square feet and rehabilitated residential landscapes over 5,000 square feet must include master valves and flow sensors that work in conjunction with weather-based irrigation controllers to detect & limit unauthorized flow.

Irrigation Controller Benefits

ET controllers can address the many problems of conventional controllers that contribute to water waste. The benefits are:

- ET controllers directly address the leading cause of water waste in landscapes, the lack of frequent adjustments to duration and frequency.
- ET controllers can assist the manager by calculating the proper application duration and frequency daily based on the many factors that affect evapotranspiration and gravitational water loss. This commonly saves 15-40% in irrigation water use.
- The high water savings and therefore fast payback period justify the investment to upgrade controllers.
- Runoff due to overwatering can be reduced by more than 50% or almost eliminated.

Important considerations for retrofitting to an ET irrigation controller.

- Irrigation scheduling is one of four important factors for optimizing landscape water use, the other being distribution uniformity, irrigation system leaks, and the water needs of plant species.
- Plant health is often improved due to proper water application based on soil type and evapotranspiration of the landscape
- There is some initial set-up time and an adjustment period that follows the installation of ET

controllers. Site data must be collected and entered into the controller software.

- Appropriate sites for the retrofitting of ET controllers are:
- Dedicated commercial, industrial, and institutional landscape sites.
- Mixed-use commercial sites.
- Dedicated and mixed-use multi-family sites.
- Single-family residential sites.
- The high-water savings and fast payback period of ET controllers justify the initial cost and data service fee for ET controllers.
- **Not all ET controllers have the same function, nor do they function or perform the same.** To learn more about the features and performance of the top ET controllers, visit the Irrigation Association's Smart Water Application Technologies site.