

Zone 7 Water Conservation Update



Zone 7 Board Meeting
August 20, 2025



Agenda

- Why We Conserve
- Conservation Programming
 - Rebate Programs
 - Outdoor & Indoor
 - Residential & Commercial
 - Outreach and Education
- Program Performance & Results
- Next Steps



Strategic Goal Alignment

GOAL B

Reliable Water
Supply and
Infrastructure

5

Develop a diversified water supply plan and implement supported projects and programs

GOAL G

Stakeholder
Engagement

19

Communications Program

20

Pursue opportunities for interagency cooperation



Why We Conserve

- Water Supply Reliability Policy
- Water Supply Contract with Retailers

States that Zone 7 will undertake and support water conservation programs



Water-Efficient Lawn Conversion Rebate

- Water-wise landscaping
- Rebate based area replaced
- \$1 per square foot

420 LAWNS CONVERTED

575k+ SQ FT!

(in 13 yrs)



Smart Irrigation Controllers

- Irrigates based on weather
- Up to \$75 (SFR)
- Up to \$100 (MFR)
- Up to \$3,000 (Commercial)

1,329 CONTROLLERS INSTALLED!

(in 12 yrs)



Pool Cover Rebate

- Reduces evaporation
- Up to \$100 rebate

115 POOLS COVERED

65k+ SQ FT!

(in 2 yrs)



High-efficiency Washer Rebate

- Energy Star Most Efficient
- \$200 rebate

19,770 WASHERS INSTALLED!

(in 17 yrs)



Other Local Rebate Offerings



- Lawn to Garden
- Smart Irrigation Controller
- High Efficiency Nozzle Rebate
- Large Rotary Nozzle Rebate
- High Efficiency Sprinkler Nozzle
- High Efficiency Clothes Washer
- High Efficiency Toilet
- Landscape Tune Up Program
- Laundry to Landscape Greywater System
- Eco-Friendly Lawn Conversion



Tri-Valley Conservation Workshops

- Focused presentations on specific topics
- Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) trainings offered by Zone 7
- List of QWEL landscapers

13 workshops/trainings
(in 4 years)



Outreach

Events

- Science Nights
- Facility Tours
- Open Houses
- Farmer's Markets
- Family Events

➤ **Over 3,300 Attendees**

Bring Back the Natives Tour

➤ **Annual Event**

Lawn Conversion Events

➤ **~2x per year**

Conservation Contests

➤ **~2x per year**

School Education

➤ **Over 12,000 Students Reached**



***FY24-25 participation reported**

Online Outreach

Zone7Water.Com/Conservation ← 12 Total Webpages

Water Wise Wendy (Tips)
Gardening & Landscaping Resources
Tri-Valley Waterwise Website
YouTube Videos and Workshops
Water Academy
Water Conservation Contests
Social Media



Online Outreach Successes

FY24-25



Page Views

Conservation Pages – 7,700

Contests – 11,642

Tri-Valley Waterwise Website – 25,960

FaceBook – 570,653 (includes impressions)

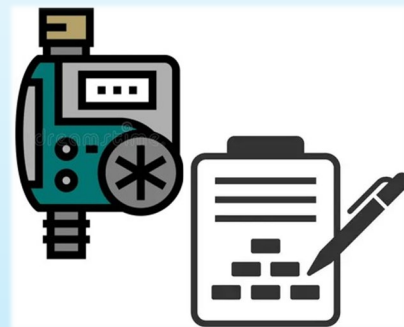
Newsletter – 14,277 (emails)

Water Wise Wendy Videos – 27,673 (33% increase)



Large-Scale Irrigation Controller Pilot Study

- 1051 homes studied at Positano HOA
- Study conducted over 2-year period
- Success of irrigation controllers demonstrated
 - **7% Water Savings on Average**



Overall Conservation Success



Estimated based on Zone 7 treated water production data and estimated total service area population

Zone 7 Conservation Rebates

FY24-25 Participation:



12
Water
Efficient
Lawn
Conversions



81
Smart
Irrigation
Controller
Rebates



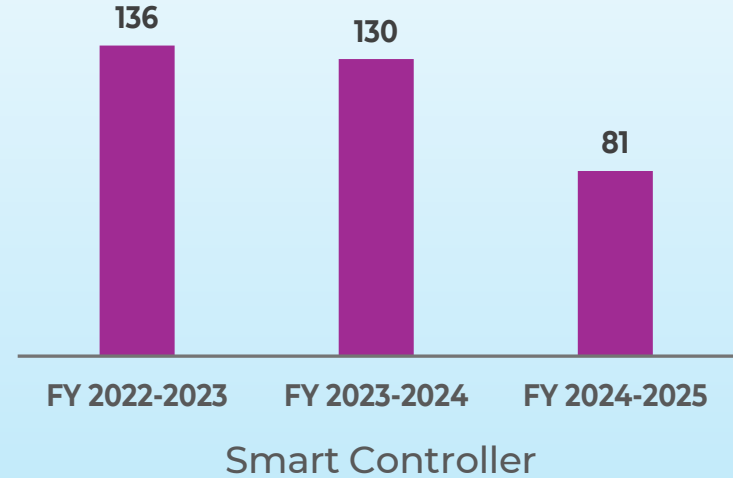
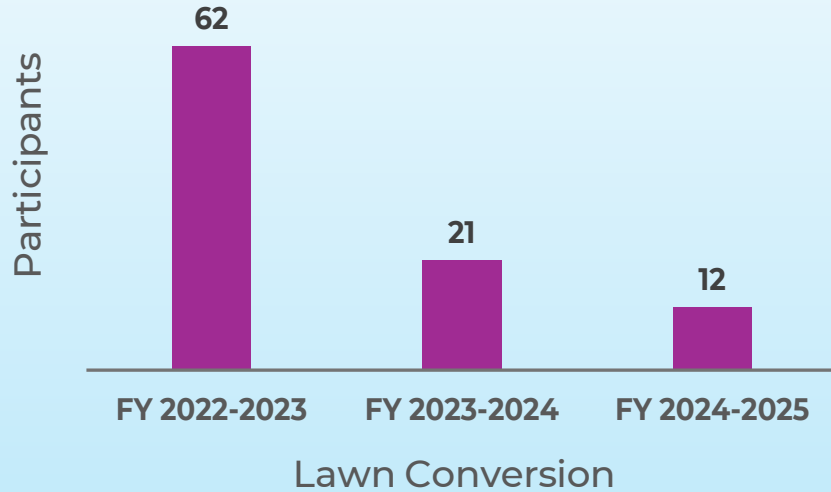
18
Pool Cover
Rebates



105
High
Efficiency
Washer
Rebates

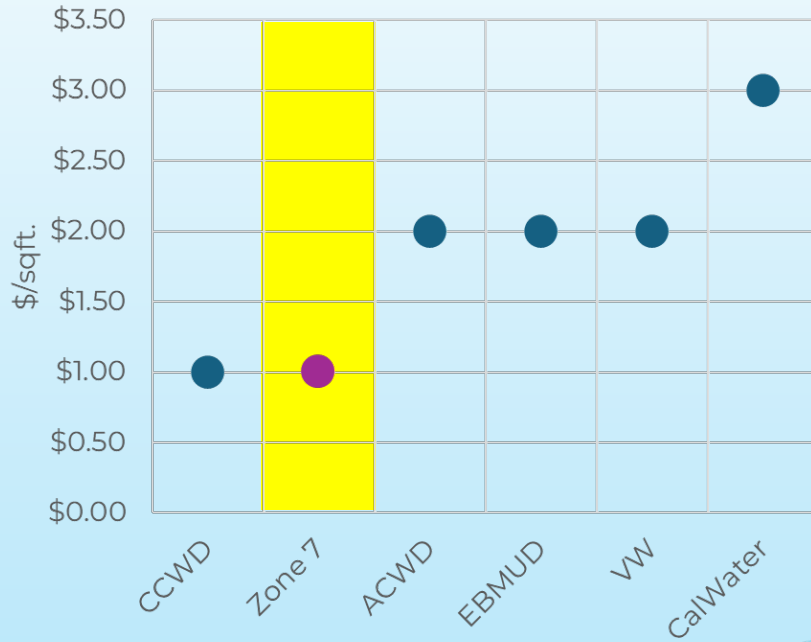


Rebate Participation Trends

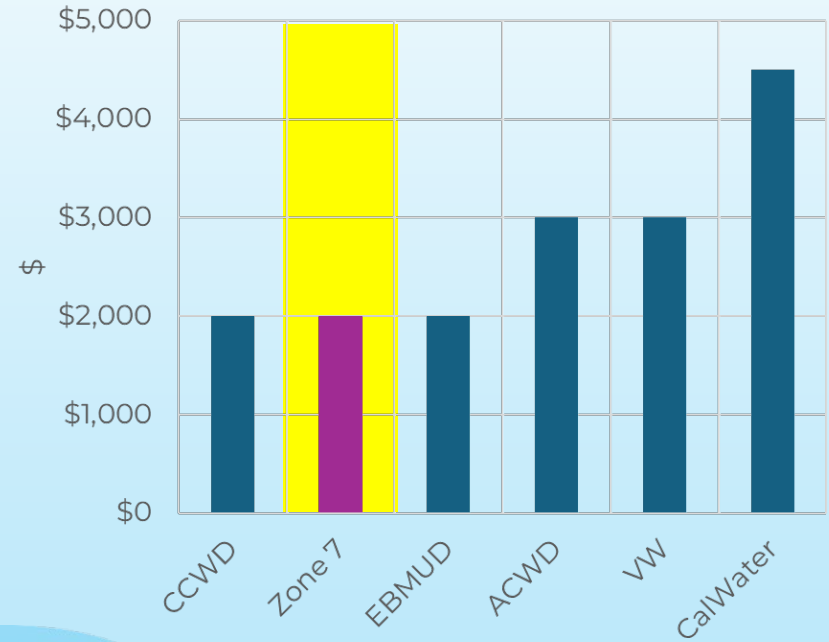


Existing Residential Lawn Conversion Rebate

\$/SQFT



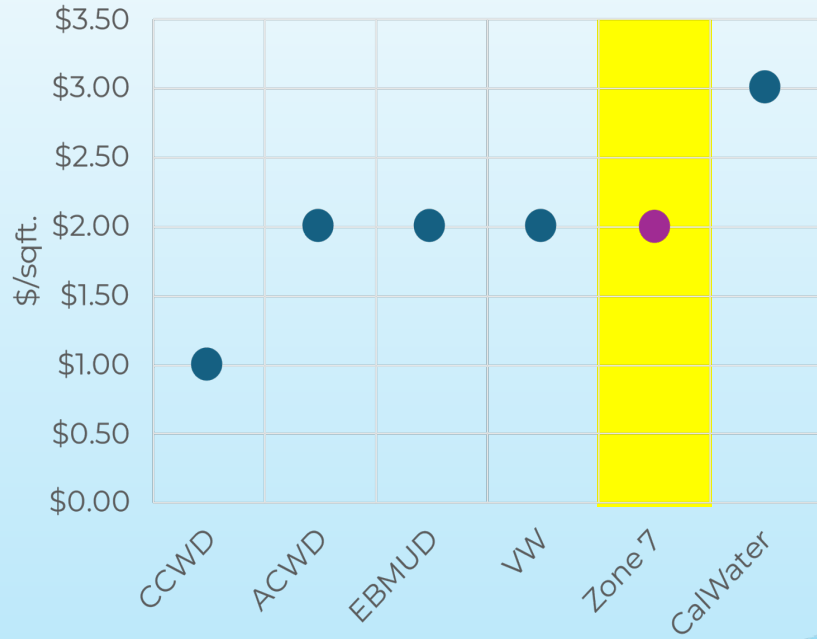
Rebate Cap



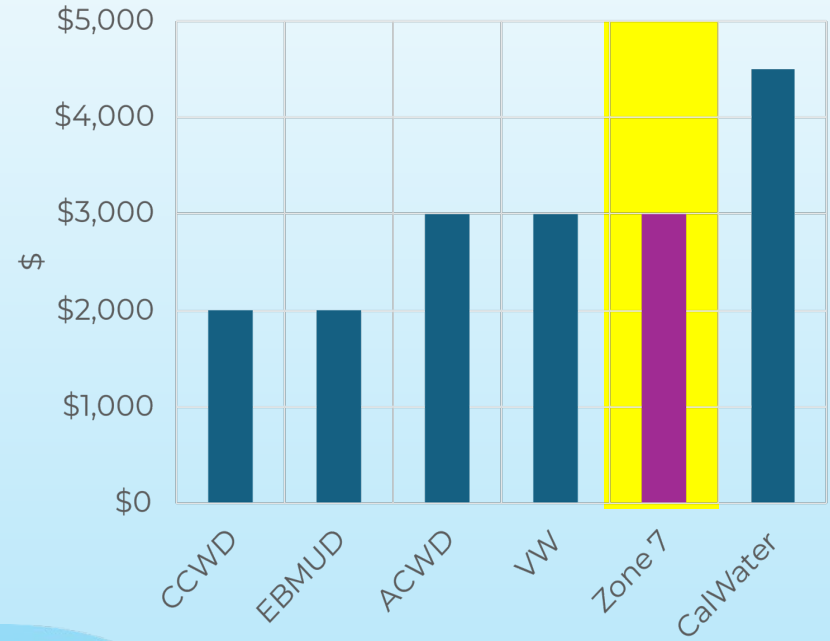
CCWD - Contra Costa Water District
ACWD - Alameda County Water District
EBMUD - East Bay Municipal Utility District
VW - Valley Water
CalWater - California Water Service

Proposed Residential Lawn Conversion Rebate

\$/SQFT



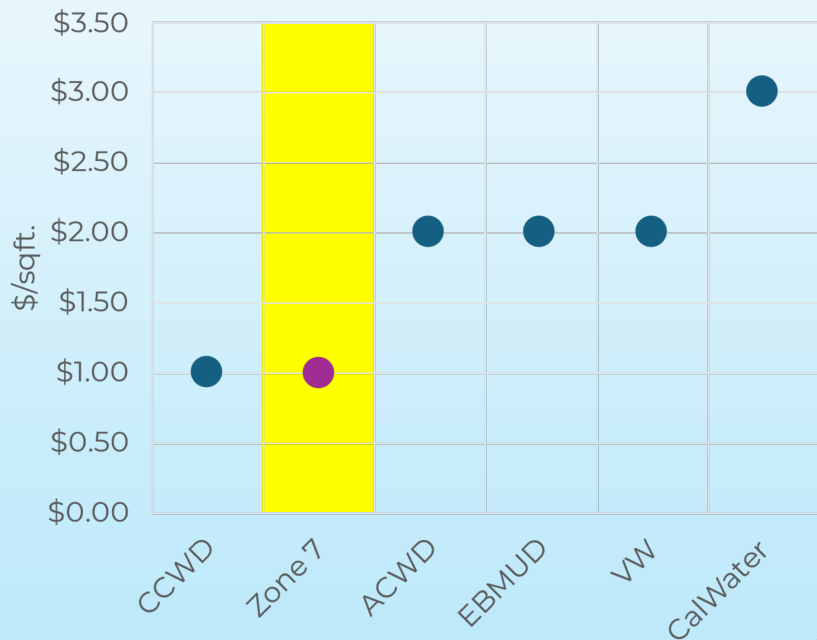
Rebate Cap



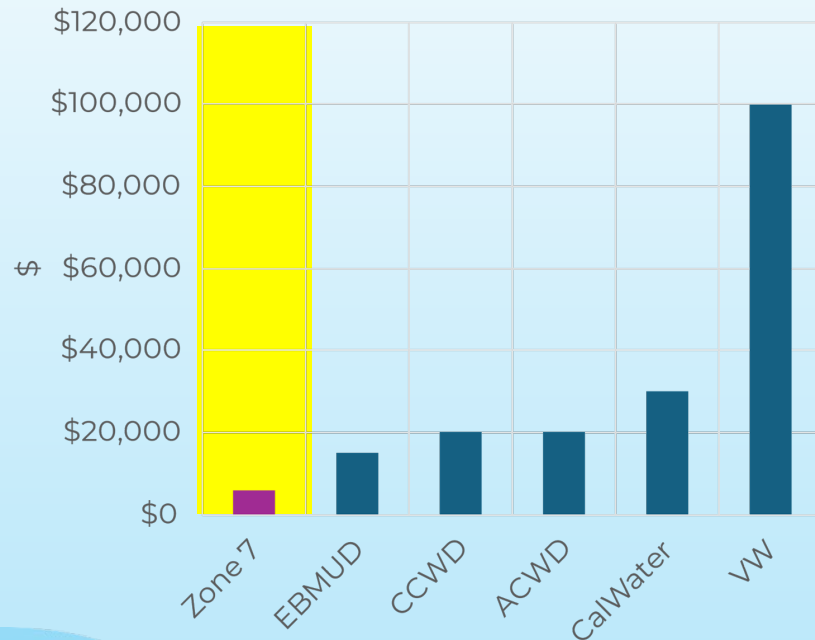
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Existing Commercial Lawn Conversion Rebate

\$/SQFT



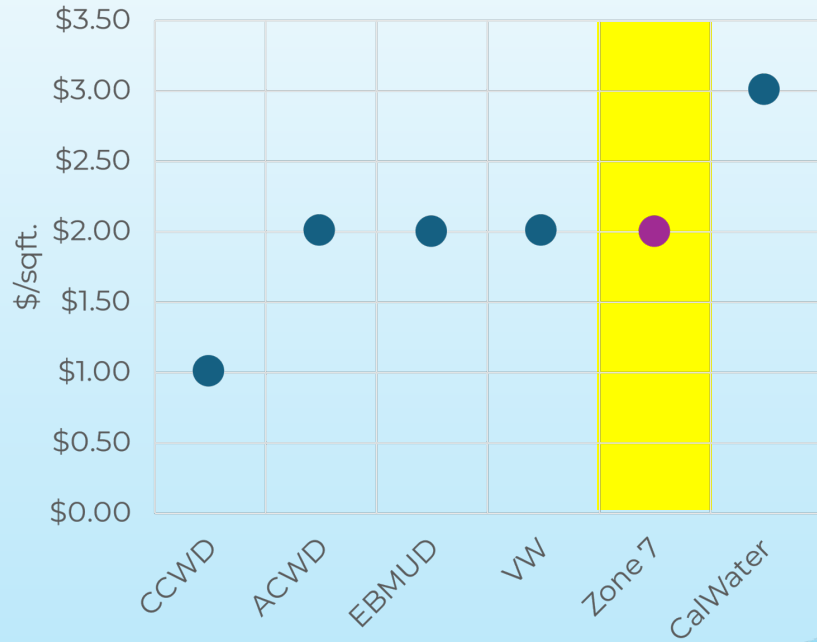
Rebate Cap



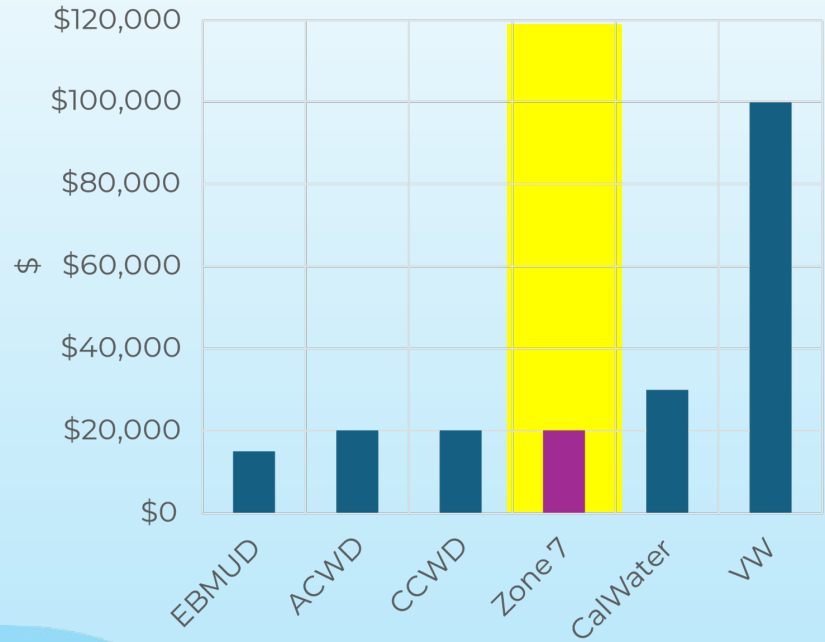
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Proposed Commercial Lawn Conversion Rebate

\$/SQFT



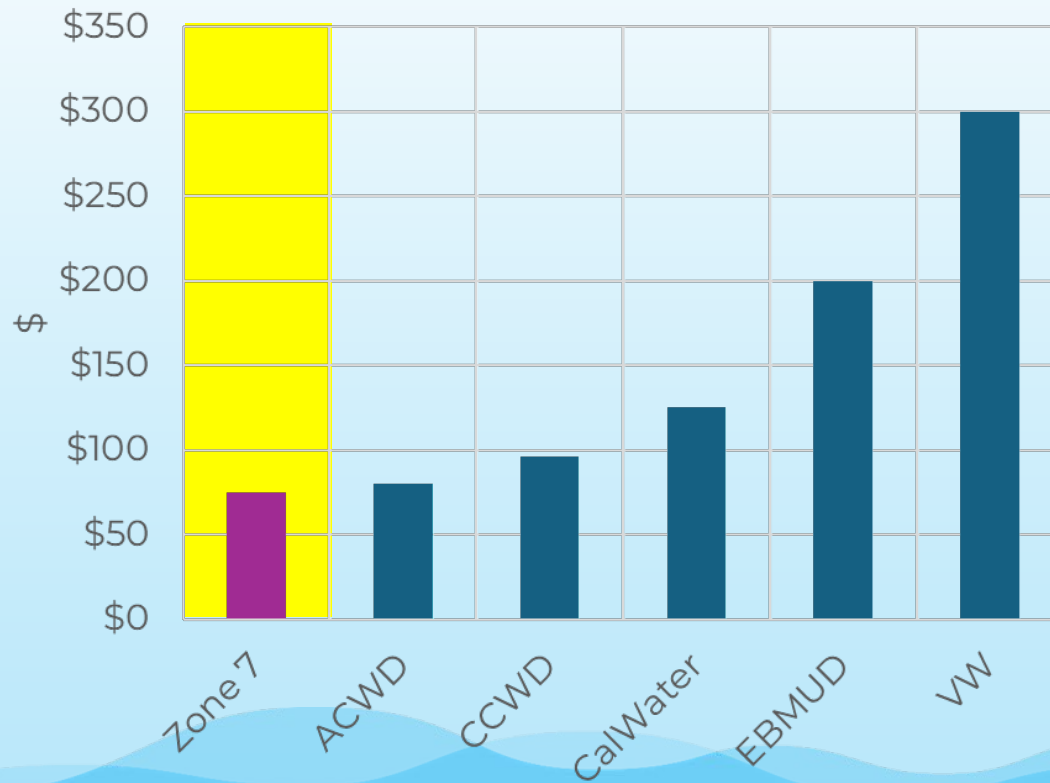
Rebate Cap



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Existing Residential Irrigation Controller Rebate

Rebate is capped at 50% of controller price, up to \$75.



**For the typical system
(One controller with ten stations)*

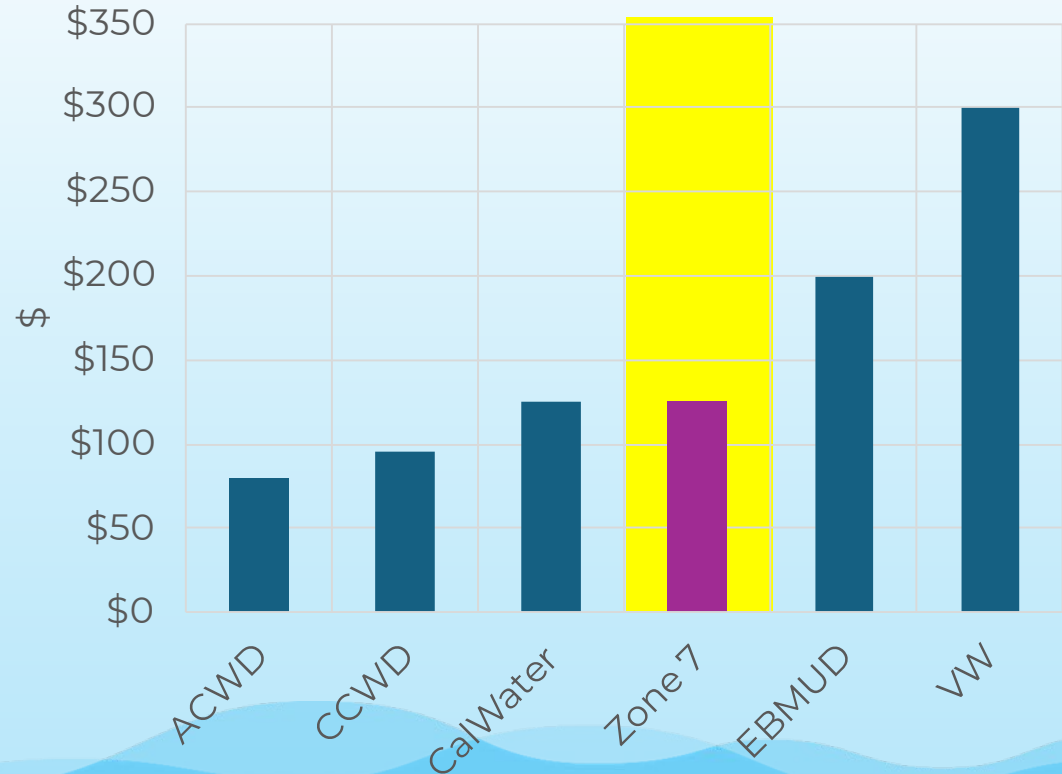


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Proposed Residential Irrigation Controller Rebate

Rebate is capped at 50% of controller price, up to \$125.

\$50 increase



**For the typical system
(One controller with ten stations)*



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Existing Commercial Irrigation Controller Rebate

Rebate is capped at 50% of controller price, up to \$3,000.

No change proposed



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Next Steps

Increase Rebate Rates

- Lawn Conversion Rebate
 - \$1 → \$2 per square foot
 - Caps:
 - \$2,000 → \$3,000 (Residential)
 - \$6,000 → \$20,000 (Commercial)
- Smart Irrigation Controller Maximums
 - \$75 → \$125 (Single-Family Residential)
 - \$100 → \$125 (Multi-Family Residential)
 - Keep at \$3,000 (Commercial)
- HE Washer - Keep at \$200 maximum
- Pool Cover - Keep at \$100 maximum



Build upon ongoing efforts to expand the program's overall impact





**WATER
AGENCY**

Questions?