



**San Diego County
Water Authority**
Our Region's Trusted
Water Leader

Walking the Talk About Water Conservation

Water Authority cuts water use at its facilities to set regional example



DIVERSIFICATION

**Enhancing Water
Supply Reliability**

As a national leader in water conservation, the San Diego County Water Authority models best practices for saving water every day, every way at its facilities. Since 2007, the agency has taken numerous steps to reduce its water use inside and outside of its headquarters office in Kearny Mesa and its operations center in Escondido.

Demonstration Garden Offers Inspiration

On-site water conservation efforts expanded significantly during the drought from 2007 to 2011. The Water Authority's first big move was replacing most of its conventional landscaping with a water-efficient demonstration garden that includes an array of native and low-water plants to create a distinctive San Diego County feel.

The WaterSmart plants provide a beautiful example of how color and texture can be combined with hardscape and groundcover for an attractive, water-efficient landscape design. The garden is irrigated with a highly efficient drip system and high-efficiency rotating nozzles. In a related project, the Water Authority replaced a lawn area used for special events with artificial turf to further reduce water use. And in 2017, the Water Authority renovated part of the garden near the entryway to illustrate concepts from the San Diego Sustainable Landscape Guidelines, a full-color book published a year earlier to promote a watershed approach to urban landscapes that achieves multiple environmental benefits.



Maps available at the Water Authority's headquarters help visitors identify low-water-use plants in the demonstration garden.



The water-efficient drip irrigation system around trees, shrubs and flowers delivers water to roots efficiently.



High-efficiency rotating nozzles use 20 percent less water and minimize misting and overspray.



In 2017, the Water Authority used grant funds to renovate a portion of its headquarters landscape to model the San Diego Sustainable Landscape Guidelines.

Saving Water Inside and Outside

Inside the building, the Water Authority installed waterless urinals, dual-flush toilets, and bathroom sink faucets with automatic shut-off sensors. The agency also added a “hydration station” – a water fountain specially designed to fill water bottles – at its headquarters.



Nine waterless urinals installed in the Water Authority's headquarters can each save approximately 26,000 gallons per year.

In addition, the Water Authority worked with its building maintenance contractors to adopt water-wise practices such as not hosing down windows during cleaning, reporting and repairing all water leaks immediately, and ensuring that all hoses are equipped with automatic shut-off nozzles.

As drought conditions worsened in 2014 and 2015, the Water Authority took additional steps to reduce its water use, including complying with local landscape irrigation restrictions at its buildings, installing rain barrels along the breezeway to the entrance of its headquarters, and turning off irrigation at the agency's flow control facilities along its aqueducts.



Hydration Station

In addition, the Water Authority worked with property managers of the Kearny Mesa business park where the agency's headquarters is located to replace grass strips between the street and sidewalk with water-efficient landscapes. That effort prompted the prop-



Rain barrels installed near the entrance to the Water Authority's headquarters distribute water through drip lines.

erty managers to replace additional grass strips in other parts of the business park.

At the Escondido operations center, landscape irrigation has been reduced dramatically by installing rock in most of the landscaped areas. Today, almost all of the water used at the site is indoors, and that is being trimmed with the installation of waterless urinals and faucets with sensors.

As new technologies enter the market, the Water Authority will continue to evaluate their potential for achieving greater levels of water-use efficiency at its facilities. ■



Grass in the strips between the sidewalks and roads near the Water Authority headquarters in Kearny Mesa has been replaced by water-efficient landscaping.



Landscaping rock reduced outdoor water use at the Escondido operations center.



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