



City of Healdsburg

Utilities Department

401 Grove Street

Healdsburg, CA 95448

Phone: (707) 431-3122

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April 2025

Re: Early Notice of New State Water Regulation Regarding Turf Irrigation

Healdsburg Commercial Water Customer,

I am writing to you with *early notice* about a new California state water regulation that *may* apply to your property beginning on January 1, 2027 or later.

California Assembly Bill 1572 prohibits the use of potable water for the irrigation of 'nonfunctional turf' (e.g., decorative lawn or grass) under the following schedule:

- Beginning **January 1, 2027** for local governments, local or regional public agencies, and public water systems
- Beginning **January 1, 2028** for all other institutional properties and all commercial and industrial properties
- Beginning **January 1, 2029** for all common areas of properties of homeowners' associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations or similar entities

Note: Cemeteries, residential homes, multi-family properties, and private residences within an HOA are not included in this State regulation.

This regulation only applies to turf, and does not impose any irrigation restrictions on trees, shrubs, or other plantings. The regulation also includes an exception for nonfunctional turf irrigation to the extent necessary to ensure the health of trees and other perennial nonturf plantings, or to the extent necessary to address an immediate health and safety need.

What is nonfunctional turf?

In the State regulation, it is much easier to look at what is defined as 'functional turf'. Functional turf means a ground cover surface of turf located in a recreational use area or community space. Nonfunctional turf is any other turf, including turf located within street rights-of-way and parking lots or turf enclosed by fencing or other barriers to permanently preclude human access for recreation or assembly. Example pictures are included on the next page.

How do I know if I have nonfunctional turf?

City of Healdsburg is awaiting a spatial analysis from the State that will include identification of nonfunctional turf areas. Once received (likely in 2026), we intend to reach out to commercial customers to confirm the State's analysis and implement a waiver process if you believe the identified turf qualifies as functional. (Note that owners of properties with more than 5,000 square feet of irrigated area will need to certify their compliance directly with the State beginning in 2030, and 2031 for common areas of HOAs.)

What should I do in the meantime?

Lawn conversion rebates are currently available for commercial customers at **\$1 per square foot** of irrigated turf that is replaced with low- or no-water use landscaping, **up to \$5,000 per site.**

Please note that replacements with artificial turf do not qualify for the rebate. If you have any turf areas that you have been thinking about updating with new climate-ready landscaping, *now is the time!* Once the regulation takes effect and becomes a requirement, rebates may be limited.

The Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership and the California Water Efficiency Partnership are both developing resources and informational items to help commercial customers, especially with tree care. We will share these as they become available.

The State regulation also requires that the City of Healdsburg revise local ordinances to include this regulation by January 1, 2027. As this date approaches and a local ordinance is drafted, please watch for additional letters and notifications requesting your participation and input.

Again, this letter is intended to provide you with *early notice* of this State regulation which *may* apply to your property. No action is required from you at this time. We greatly appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to comply with new State water regulations.

Find out more details and program requirements for the lawn conversion rebate in the attached flyer or at www.SmartLivingHealdsburg.org.

Sincerely,

Terra Sampson

Terra Sampson

Utility Conservation Analyst

City of Healdsburg

Si necesita la traducción de esta información al español o tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese con nosotros a (707) 431-3122 o conservation@healdsburg.gov.

