

Solutions for Complying with California's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance AB 1881

Property Managers and Commercial and Municipal Landscape Managers Can Easily Gain Compliance by Upgrading to Intelligent Irrigation Management with an ETwater™ Smart Controller. -Photo courtesy of ET Water Systems

In September 2009, California adopted ordinance AB 1881 legislation which institutes efficiency standards and a Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA) for landscaping projects. AB 1881 went into effect on January 1, 2010.

The ordinance applies to most new and rehabilitated landscapes with a landscape area greater than 2,500 square feet that require a permit, plan check, or design review. Homeowner-provided or homeowner-hired landscaping at single-family and multi-family homes are subject to the Ordinance if the landscape area is at least 5,000 square feet.

Among other provisions, the implementation of AB 1881 requires that these landscapes incorporate an automatic irrigation controller such as ET Water's smart controller or, for retrofit sites, an ETwater™ Smartworks™ replacement panel.

ET Water Systems announced an affordable product solution for California property managers, homeowner associations and municipalities to comply with the ordinance. ETwater™ controllers or SmartWorks™ replacement panels can work with Rain Bird®, Irritrol® and Rain Master™ controllers.

"We understand the scientific, financial and environmental impact this ordinance places on users of commercial irrigation systems throughout the state of California who must either adopt the ordinance or craft a local ordinance that is at least as effective in regard to water conservation," said Pat McIntyre, CEO of California-based ET Water Systems. "We offer ETwater SmartWorks replacement panels as a simple and cost-effective solution to achieve compliance via an upgrade to intelligent irrigation controllers."

According to McIntyre, Urban water use in California is 8.7 million acre feet per year. A 20-percent reduction would conserve 1.74 million acre feet per year – enough water to serve more than 2 million families per year. Retrofitting existing irrigation systems is a quick-to-market solution that allows water property managers to realize the conservation savings and investment in their legacy irrigation systems while complying with AB 1881.