

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies, proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency, must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, California, along with other Western states, experienced severe drought conditions from 2021 until this winter. Drought, even extreme drought, is not unusual for this region, but the fact that California experienced such severe dry conditions only a few years after its worst drought on record from 2012 to 2016 has raised alarm bells across the state and the West; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has had policy in place since 1990 to reduce water use for landscape irrigation in nonfunctional turf settings, but that, nonetheless a legacy of irrigated decorative grass remains; and

WHEREAS, a large portion of treated drinking water is used to irrigate nonfunctional turf landscapes both locally and across California; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power is actively administering a turf replacement program, their most popular water conservation program. It offers customers rebates of five dollars per square foot for replacing both residential and commercial turf with sustainable landscaping as an effective method to reduce reliance on drinking water for landscapes; and

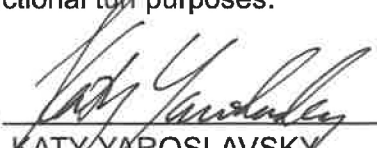
WHEREAS, currently pending in the California Legislature is Assembly Bill (AB) 1572 (Friedman) co-sponsored by Heal the Bay and the Natural Resource Defense Council to prohibit the use of drinking water for the irrigation of nonfunctional turf located on commercial, industrial, and institutional properties other than a cemetery, and require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish compliance and certification requirements no later than July 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, AB 1572 declares the use of potable water to irrigate nonfunctional turf is wasteful and incompatible with State climate change policy, and it supports communities in saving both water and money and speed the transition to sustainable alternatives that can keep landscapes beautiful; and

WHEREAS, the City should support this bill because AB 1572 continues to advance the City of Los Angeles towards sustainability by drastically reducing unnecessary water use, and diverting that water to more vital needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-24 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Assembly Bill 1572 (Friedman) to prohibit the use of potable water for irrigation of nonfunctional turf purposes.

PRESENTED BY:


KATY YAROSLAVSKY
Councilmember, 5TH District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

MHD
JUN 23 2023