



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • (213) 217-6485 • [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com)

Contacts: Lynn Lipinski, Metropolitan, (213) 217-6603; (213) 324-6430, mobile  
John Frith, CBIA, (916) 443-7933, ext. 332; (916) 803-3005, mobile

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## CALIFORNIA FRIENDLY TO ESTABLISH STATE STANDARD FOR WATER-SAVING GOALS IN GREEN BUILDER PROGRAM

### **New homes will save at least 20,000 gallons/water annually by incorporating California Friendly landscapes as well as water-saving practices, products**

LONG BEACH, Calif.—California Friendly landscapes, products and practices that save at least 20,000 gallons of water per year in new homes will become the definitive residential green building standard throughout the state under a new partnership announced today between the Metropolitan Water District and the California Building Industry Association.

A cornerstone of CBIA's voluntary California Green Builder Program will be the use of several California Friendly water-saving features developed by Metropolitan, including landscaping featuring smart, sustainable design, plants that are right for the climate, and state-of-the-art irrigation systems. Homebuilders that install the latest water-saving devices and practices will reduce water use in new homes by at least 12 percent.

"We are excited to partner with the Green Builder Program to set a new standard for water efficiency in new homes," said Metropolitan board Chairman Wes Bannister about the MWD/CBIA partnership announced today at the annual Building Industry Show at the Long Beach Convention Center.

"Working with builders and developers through this program and our own voluntary, incentive-based California Friendly model home program is a sure way to get things done right the first time," Bannister said.

CBIA President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Rivinius said the partnership with Metropolitan will benefit builders throughout the state. The California Friendly standards were incorporated into the Green Builder program in October.

"Adopting the California Friendly standards will help our members build and market even more water-efficient homes than before, and will allow us to utilize Metropolitan's great technical expertise so our builders can do the best job as cost-effectively as possible," Rivinius said.

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“The partnership further enhances our voluntary California Green Builder program, which was designed by builders to be an effective, yet practical and cost-effective program that delivers measurable environmental benefits.”

Officials from two major homebuilders applauded the partnership. “Valdemosa in Temecula is KB Home’s first community to feature California Friendly landscaping, and it’s already been very well received by our homebuyers. We hope that showcasing these products in our model homes and offering them to our homebuyers will help stimulate the marketplace to adopt these much needed products,” said Steve Ruffner, KB Home Riverside division president.

“The California Friendly standards for water conservation line up naturally with Pardee Homes’ values and our LivingSmart program,” said Greg Ray, Pardee’s vice president of landscape architecture. “Our new WaterSmart homes feature sustainable landscaping and state-of-the-art sprinkler systems that minimize water consumption and still look colorful and beautiful.”

In addition to water savings, the California Green Builder program includes energy-efficiency standards that are 15 percent above Title 24 requirements, improved ventilation standards and construction waste reduction.

The partnership with the California Green Builder program marks the first statewide adoption of the water-related green building standards developed by Metropolitan for its pilot California Friendly model home program. Launched in 2002, the pilot program was created by Metropolitan in partnership with local water agencies, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and in collaboration with the Building Industry Association of Southern California.

The program demonstrates the latest water-efficient designs and technology in participating model homes, and also provides financial incentives to builders to equip production homes with water-saving features that exceed current building standards.

Photos and information on California Friendly homes and their features are available at [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com).

“Smart” weather-based irrigation controllers take guesswork out of lawn maintenance by changing watering needs according to weather. Other elements builders may install include 1.28 gallons/flush toilets and high-efficiency clothes washers with a water factor of 6.0 or less.

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*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 18 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other water-management programs.*