



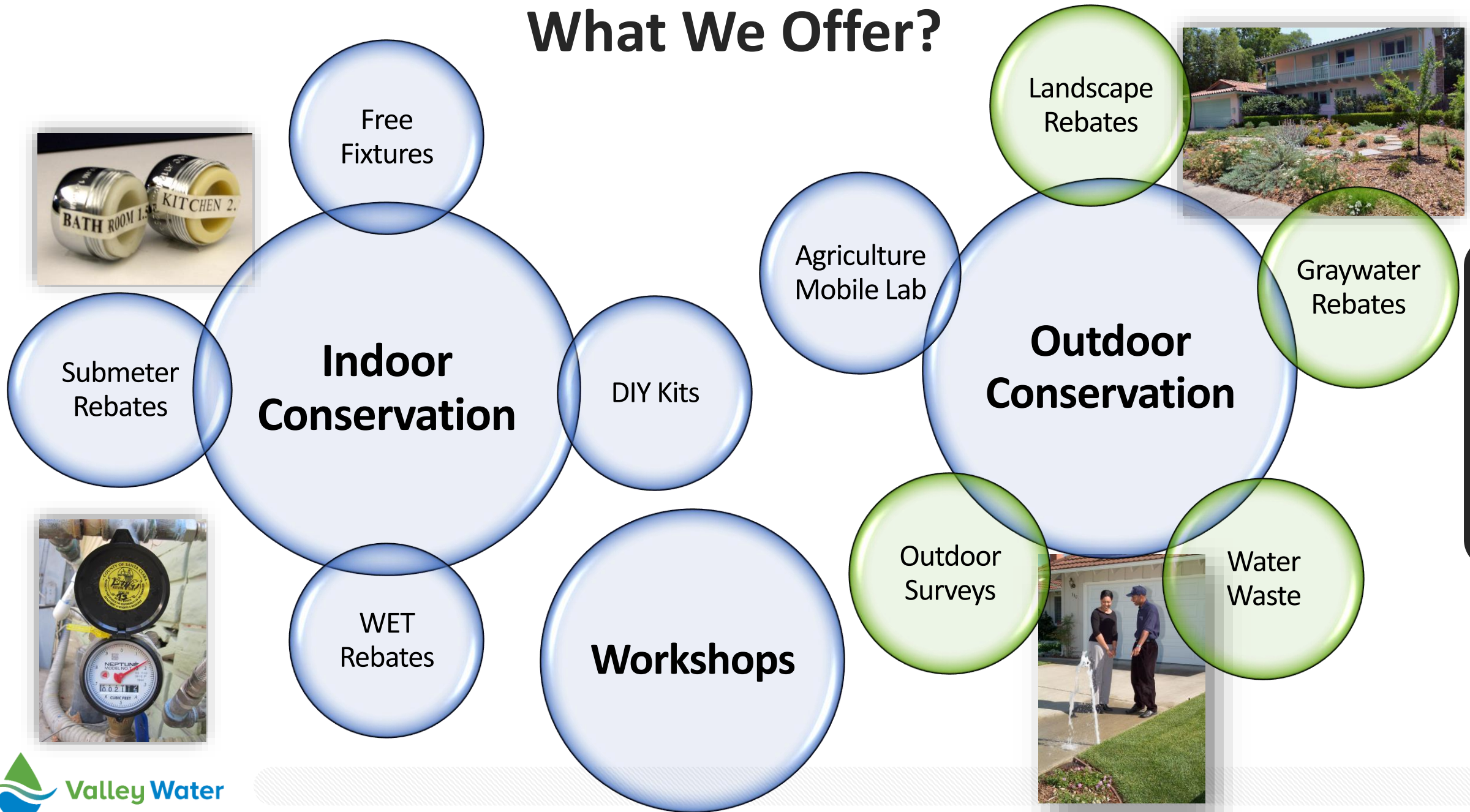
# Water Conservation Program Updates

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# What We Offer?





# Since the 2021 Summit: Landscape Rebate Program 3

- Increase Conversion Rebate from \$1 to **\$2 per square foot**
- Increased residential cap from \$2,000 to **\$3,000**





# Since the 2021 Summit: Landscape Rebate Program

4





# Since the 2021 Summit: eCart Launch

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- Launched in April 2021
- Packaged and shipped over 5,400 orders
- Secured additional funding
- Procured vendor





# Since the 2021 Summit: **Purified Water Campaign**

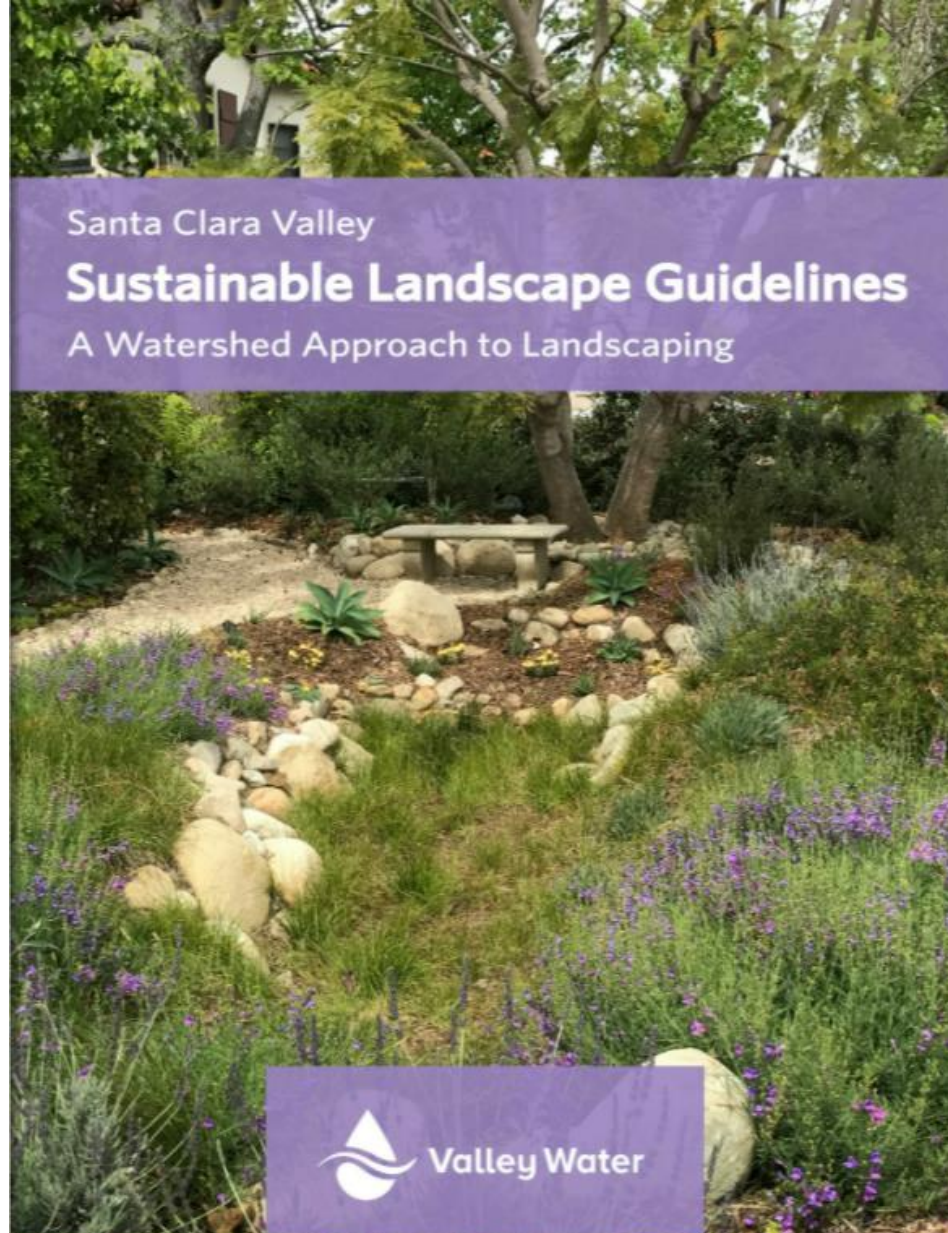
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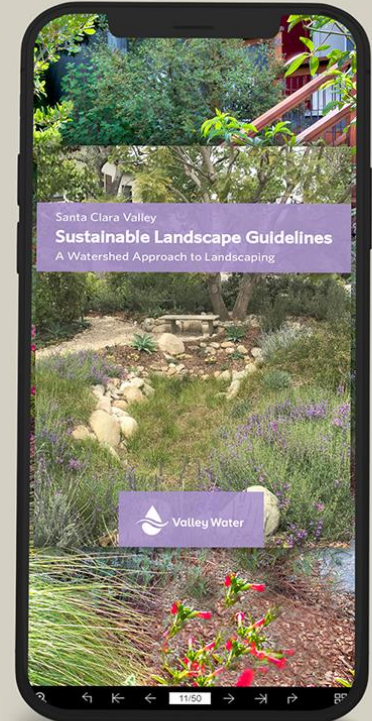


# Since the 2021 Summit: Sustainable Landscape Guidelines



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### Install a Laundry to Landscape (L2L) System

Use water from a clothes washer to irrigate the outdoor landscape. Graywater is the gently used water from bathroom sinks, showers, and clothes washers that can be directed into the landscape to provide a dependable, local source of water throughout the dry season. This is especially important for fruit-bearing and shade trees, which may suffer in times of drought.

The L2L system captures the graywater from the clothes washer's drain hose and connects to a diverter valve, which allows the graywater to be directed to either the landscape or the sewer. It is one of the easiest graywater systems to construct and is very easy to maintain.

#### Equipment Summary

The 3/4"-1" irrigation tube must have one branch that maintains the diameter of the clothes washer drain line but may branch off into 1/2" tubing outlets to irrigate specific plants. The system does not alter the household plumbing and therefore does not require a permit in California, provided basic guidelines are followed. Determine your soil type (see p. 15) and use the chart below to calculate the estimated square footage of area needed to safely disburse the graywater into the landscape through mulch basins. A mulch basin is a flat-bottomed trench dug at a plant's drip line and back-filled with mulch to help graywater infiltrate deeply into soil.

Sketch out your graywater plan before you install. Free detailed instructions and how-to videos for installing your system are available at [ValleyWater.org/GraywaterResources](http://ValleyWater.org/GraywaterResources).

A. Graywater Distribution Point, B. Mulch Basin, C. Sewer Standpipe, D. 3-way Diverter Valve, E. Auto Vent, F. Line to Landscape.



#### Calculate Your Mulch Basin Size

Determine how much graywater you will generate per laundry load. This depends upon clothes washer type, age, and efficiency.

**Graywater Gallons Per Day = Loads per 24 hours X Gallons per Load.**

- Front load machine = 8-35 gallons
- Top load machine = 25-45 gallons

Your soil type ultimately determines the basin's square footage or "footprint" to prevent graywater from ponding or running off your landscape.

**Basin Square Footage = Gallons Per Day x Soil Type Adjustment (Gallons per Sq. Ft. per Day)**  
 Sandy Soil adjustment = 1.10  
 Clay Soil adjustment = 5.00

## Consider Laundry to Landscape



Graywater works best for high- and medium-water use plants, fruit trees, decorative trees, shrubs, and vines. Never use graywater on edible parts of plants, like root vegetables, and avoid salt- or pH-sensitive plants. Trees, especially fruit trees, represent great opportunities for using graywater in the landscape because they may need supplemental water during drought (see p. 10).



Graywater is not sprayed. Instead, it flows through drip lines to the roots to avoid human contact and ponding. It should never connect to potable irrigation lines. Graywater and potable irrigation systems should be installed, maintained, and planned separately and independently from one another.



## Seven Tips for Going Gray Gracefully

1. **Match Plant Water Needs to Graywater.** Select moderate and low water use plants and then use the graywater in summer to provide supplemental irrigation.

2. **Calculate the Amount of Graywater** available to irrigate your plants by counting the loads of laundry you do each week (see p.32). A typical medium sized fruit tree requires about 31 gallons per week during the summer, so plan accordingly.

3. **Plan Your Irrigation Schedule with Your Laundry** because graywater cannot be stored and must be used on the same site where it is generated within the same day.

4. **Identify Distribution Points** a minimum of 18" from a property line and permanently labeled in five foot increments: "CAUTION: NONPOTABLE WATER, DO NOT DRINK."

5. **Plan Before You Install.** Consider the best place where the line should exit the house through an exterior wall or crawl space so that it aligns with the most plants to irrigate. Identify where you may need to grade, dig, or cross a pathway. The clothes washer pump pushes water about 50 feet across a flat landscape, and a further distance downhill.

6. **Install a 3-Way Diverter Valve** to direct the flow to either the landscape or the sewer. Send graywater to the sewer during the rainy season or if you choose to run a laundry load with bleach or other inappropriate cleaning agents. The diverter valve should be clearly labeled and readily accessible so you never have to second guess yourself.

7. **Use Non-Toxic Liquid Detergents** to ensure your graywater irrigation is "plant friendly." The detergent should be non-toxic, low in salts, biocompatible, and free of boron and chlorine. Look for labels that include "SaferChoice" and "USDA Biopreferred Products."

8. **Apply for a rebate** before starting your project at: [WaterSavings.org](http://WaterSavings.org). Get detailed information on example systems, appropriate detergents, example parts lists, contractors, frequently asked questions, and virtual workshops at [WaterSavings.org](http://WaterSavings.org).



# Since the 2021 Summit: DIY Lawn Buster Workshops

Interested in transforming your lawn into a low water use landscape, but not sure where to start?

*Join a Lawn Busters DIY Workshop for hands-on training!*

**REGISTER NOW**  
[Ourcityforest.org/diylawnbust](https://ourcityforest.org/diylawnbust)

Participate in one of the monthly in-person workshops offered and receive a **50% discount** on plants at the **Our City Forest Community Nursery** at 1000 Spring St. San Jose, CA 95110.



 **OUR CITY FOREST** 

A partnership between Valley Water and Our City Forest

 Contact [lawnbusters@ourcityforest.org](mailto:lawnbusters@ourcityforest.org) or (408) 998-7337 x 107 with questions.



# Since the 2021 Summit: **Water Wise Video Series**

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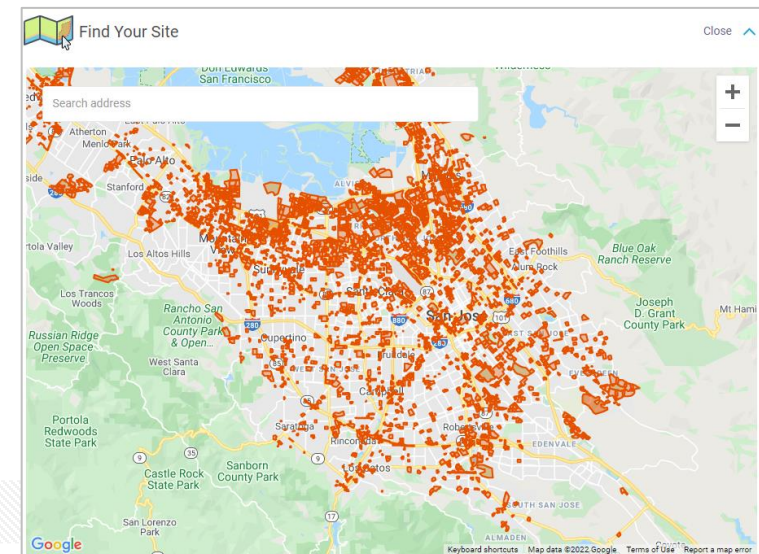


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# Since the 2021 Summit: Large Landscape Survey Program

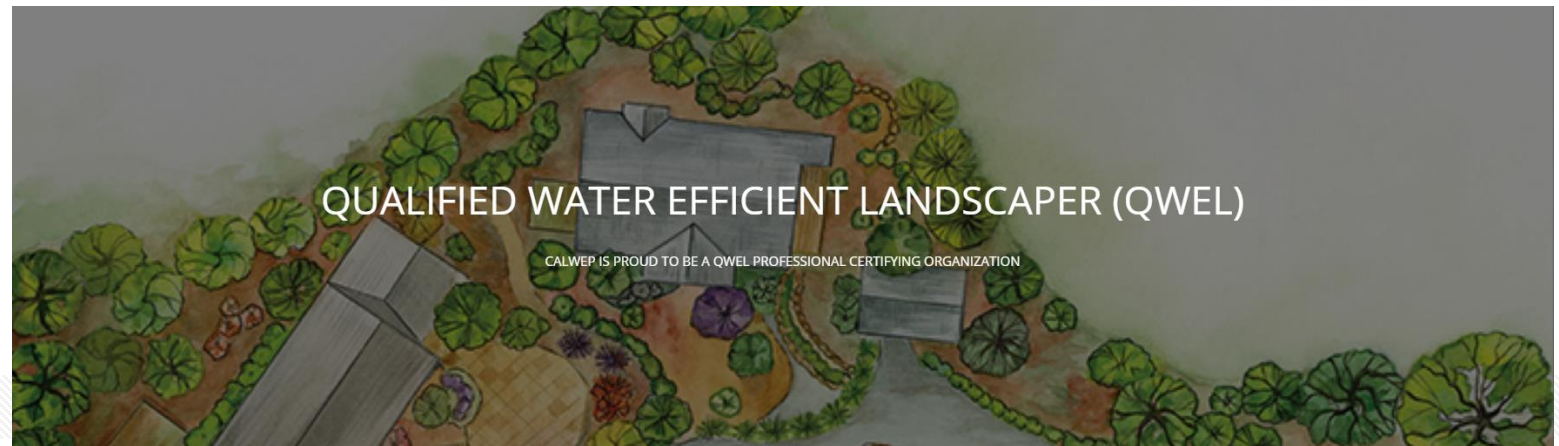
- Expanded program
- Landscape irrigation budgets & field surveys
- Over 3,800 sites in program
- Improve communication between stakeholders
- Check your sites at [Waterfluence.com](https://waterfluence.com)





# Since the 2021 Summit: Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Training (BayQWEL)

- Online curriculum
- Visit [qwel.net](http://qwel.net) for more classes
- More Santa Clara County QWEL classes to come







Preserving our environment, one landscape at a time



## Other Information

- Resources at [www.SouthBayGreenGardens.org](http://www.SouthBayGreenGardens.org)
- Videos at [www.watersavings.org](http://www.watersavings.org)
- Report water waste by emailing [WaterWise@valleywater.org](mailto:WaterWise@valleywater.org) or through Access Valley Water.

Conservation is a California Way of Life







# Thank you!

Any questions? \_\_\_\_\_

[watersavings.org](https://watersavings.org)

[Conservation@valleywater.org](mailto:Conservation@valleywater.org)

Hotline: 408-630-2554

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download or look at  
the bottom right  
corner of  
[valleywater.org](https://valleywater.org)

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Report water waste, homeless encampments, or other problems to  
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