

# HERS<sub>H2O</sub> and WaterSense 2.0:

A National Program for Rating the Water  
Efficiency of New Homes

**Thank you for joining! The webinar will begin shortly.**

Ryan Meres, RESNET

# Agenda

- Overview
- The Need for Water Efficiency
- HERS<sub>H2O</sub> and WaterSense V2
- The Process for HERS<sub>H2O</sub> Ratings



## Overview

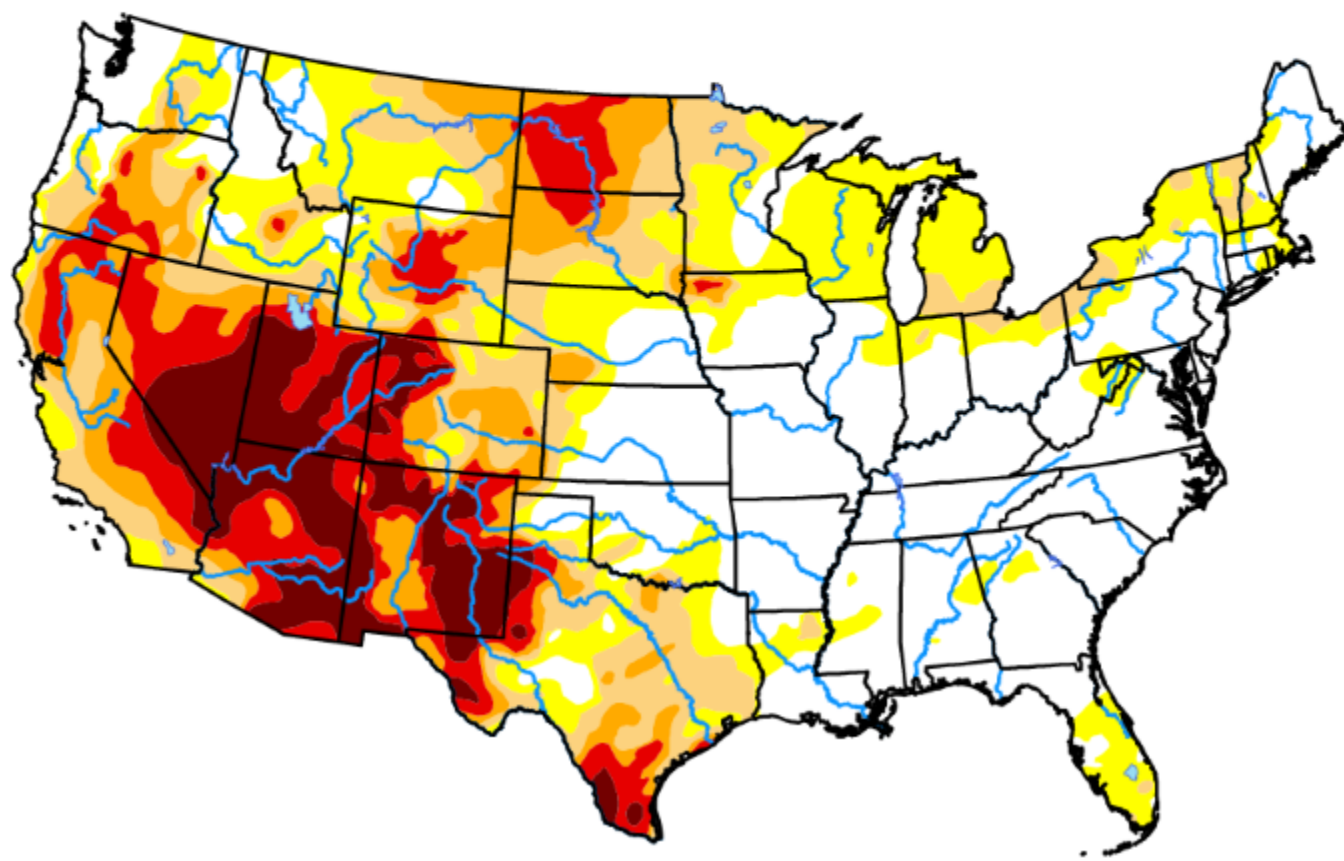
- HERS H2O builds off the HERS Rating
- A national program that has fully launched!
- Can be used to achieve the WaterSense Label for Homes (V2)
- Certified HERS Raters/RFIs can offer H2O Ratings with ~3 hours of online training



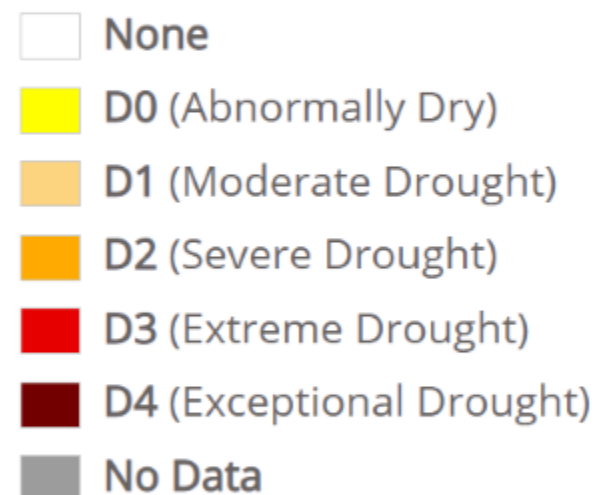
# Drought Monitor for April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Map released: Thurs. April 1, 2021**

**Data valid: March 30, 2021 at 8 a.m. EDT**



## Intensity:



## Author(s):

**Brad Pugh**, NOAA/CPC

## Building Permit Approvals at Risk Over Water Supply?

- New development putting a strain on some local water utilities
- Can lead to moratorium on new permits
- Can increase tap fees
- H2O Ratings provide metric to estimate consumption

### Coastal Commission denies permit to build new home in Cambria due to 'water supply' issues

BY KATHE TANNER

NOVEMBER 21, 2019 04:45 AM



#### NEWS

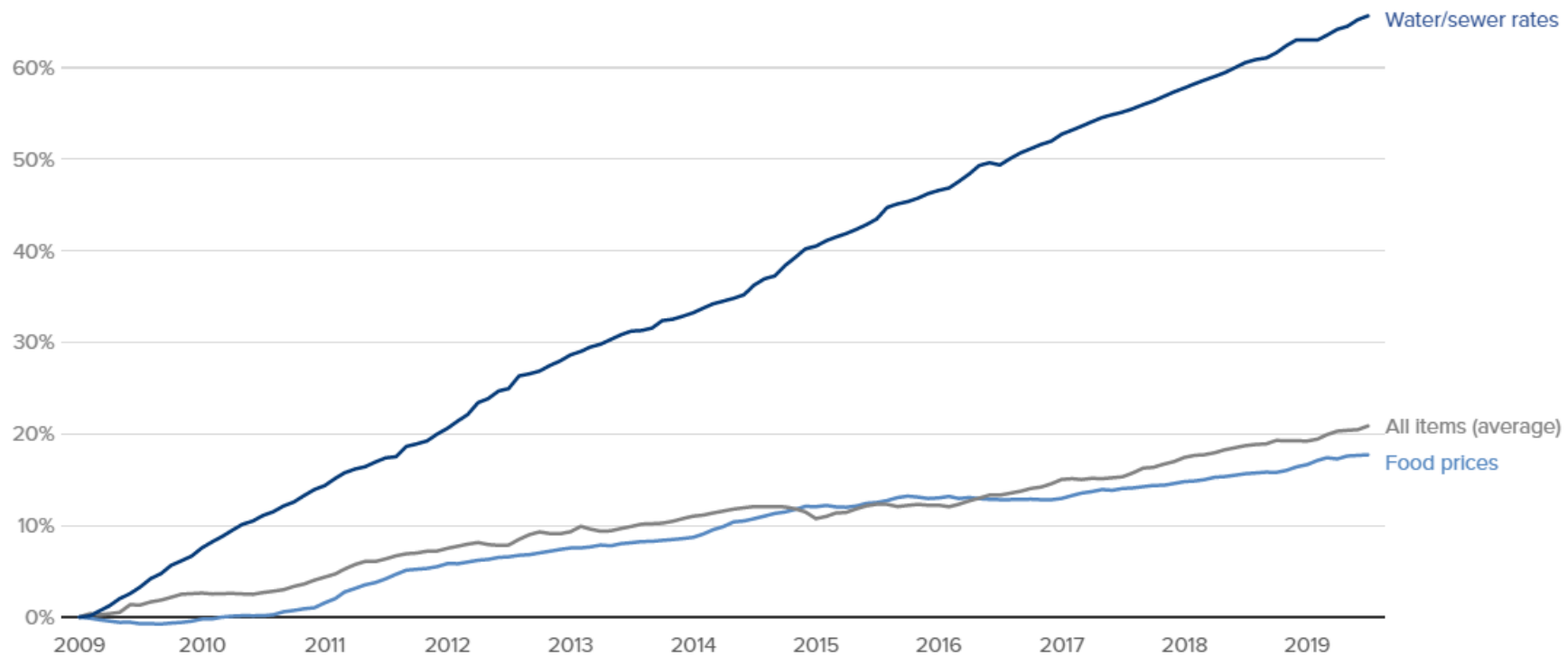
### Plans for desert subdivisions raising questions about water

### Concerns over water supply for future Banning Lewis development

Wed, February 3, 2021, 9:14 PM

# Rising Water and Sewer Costs

What Americans pay for water and sewer service has increased much faster than inflation or the price of food.





Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics—Consumer Price Index

## Water Infrastructure

- Bloomington, Indiana
  - 18% increase for residential
  - 40% for commercial/industrial
- Water mains 75+ years old
- Plan would replace all water mains every 100 years
- Brookfield, Illinois
  - Proposed 18% increase

### City Raising Water Rates To Help Replace Aging Water Lines


By PATRICK BEANE  
Posted March 25, 2021

 Like One person likes this. Be the first of your friends.  Tweet

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Brookfield officials mull water main replacement program

*Rate hike proposed to replace pipes that are 100+ years old*

 by BOB UPHUES March 23, 2021

THE  
HILL

### Four Great Lakes governors call on White House to aid in water infrastructure upgrades

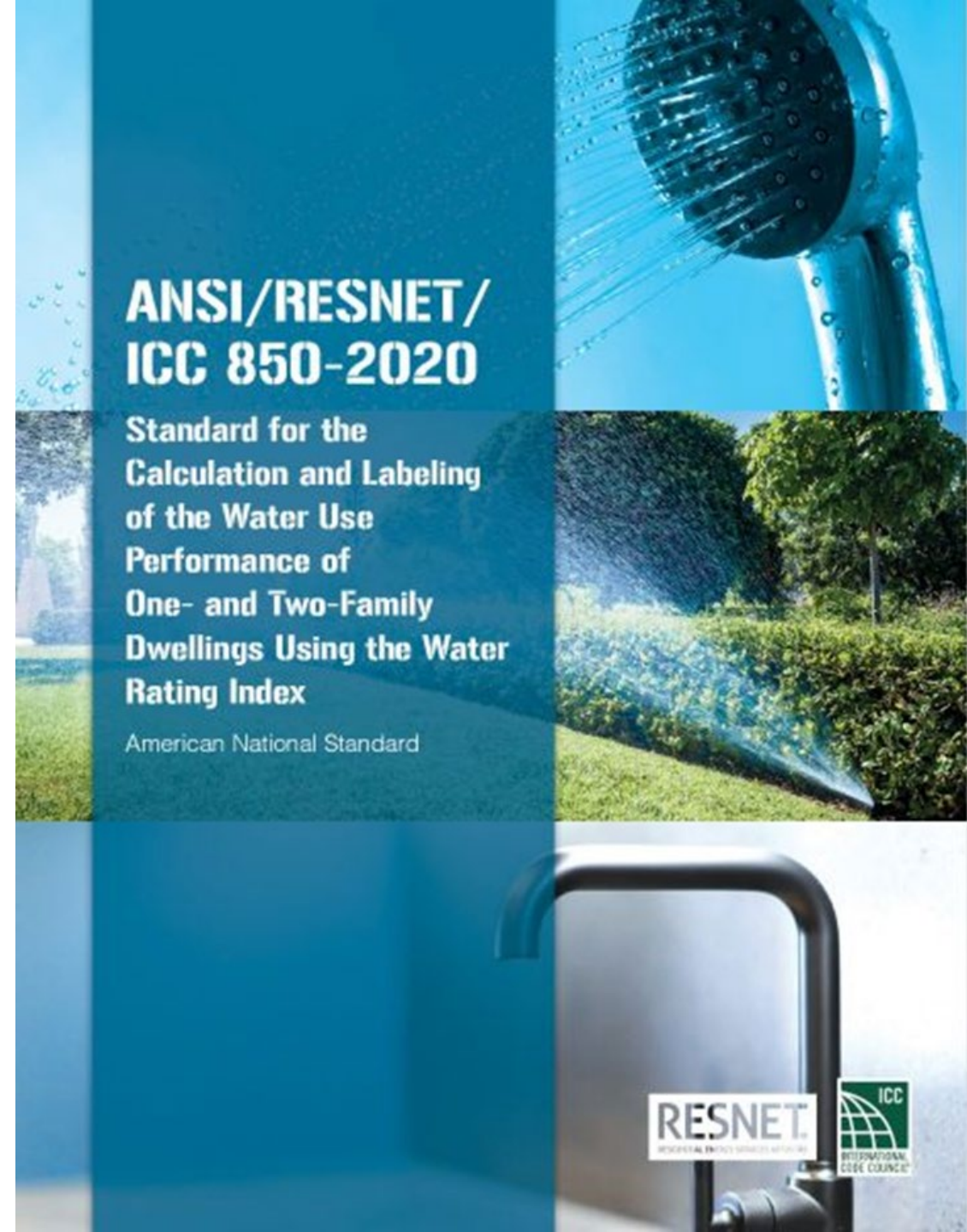
BY ZACK BUDRYK - 03/30/21 02:29 PM EDT

 30 COMMENTS



## Standard 850-2020

- Basis for the calculation of HERS<sub>H2O</sub> Index Score
- Requirements for labeling
- Calculations for water cost savings
- Only applies to single family and duplexes, including townhomes
- Work has begun on version 2





## Components of a Water Rating



Shower Heads



Kitchen Faucet



Lavatory Faucets



Clothes Washer



Toilet Flush  
Volume



Water Softener



Leaks/Other  
Water Use



Excess Pressure



Irrigation



Pool or Spa

# Components of a Water Rating



House Size



Geographic Location



Number of Bedrooms



Lot & Landscape Size



Hot Water Distribution Layout



Hot Water Pipe Insulation

## How does WaterSense fit in?

- RESNET is a WaterSense HCO
- HERS<sub>H2O</sub> is a WS Approved Cert. Method
- Achieve H2O Score of 70 or less
- Few basic requirements
- WS Verifiers to be listed on EPA website
- <https://lookforwatersense.epa.gov/home-verifier.html>



## Technical Requirements for V2

- Meet all items on the mandatory checklist
- HERS<sub>H2O</sub> score of 70 or less
- Submit rating to RESNET to obtain H2O Cert. and WS Labels

| Item                  | Requirements  |
|-----------------------|---|
| Leaks                 | Pressure-loss test on all water supplies detected no leaks  |
|                       | Free of visible leaks from hot water delivery system  |
|                       | Free of visible leaks from toilet(s), as determined through visual assessment and by conducting a dye tablet test in each toilet to ensure the flapper is not leaking                             |
|                       | Free of visible leaks from bathroom faucet(s)   |
|                       | Free of visible leaks from showerhead(s)  |
|                       | Free of visible leaks from bathroom tub faucet(s), i.e., tub spout(s), when showerhead(s) is activated, as determine through visual assessment after showerhead has been activated for one minute |
|                       | Free of visible leaks from kitchen and other sink faucet(s)   |
|                       | Free of visible leaks from other fixtures or appliances (e.g., clothes washers, dishwashers, hose bibs, irrigation systems) at point of use or point of connection to water distribution system   |
| Toilets               | WaterSense labeled  |
| Bathroom sink faucets | WaterSense labeled  |
| Showerheads           | WaterSense labeled  |



## What about WaterSense Version 1?

- February 2021, Final V2 Released
- Feb – June 2021, Transition Phase 1
  - ▷ Homes can use V1 or V2
- July – December 2021 Phase 2
  - ▷ Homes permitted after July 1 use V2
- January 2022, Final Sunset on V1



Image Courtesy KB Home

## Verifier Promo Materials

- WaterSense Developed Materials:
  - ▷ Customizable Brochure
  - ▷ Email template
  - ▷ Website Text
  - ▷ Social Media Graphics

Already certifying your energy-efficient homes?  
Tap into water savings with ease.

With **WaterSense**  
**labeled products**, no  
visible leaks, and a  
**HERS<sub>H2O</sub> score below**  
**70**, it's easy!



Stand out as a green builder. Enhance your  
homes with the WaterSense label.



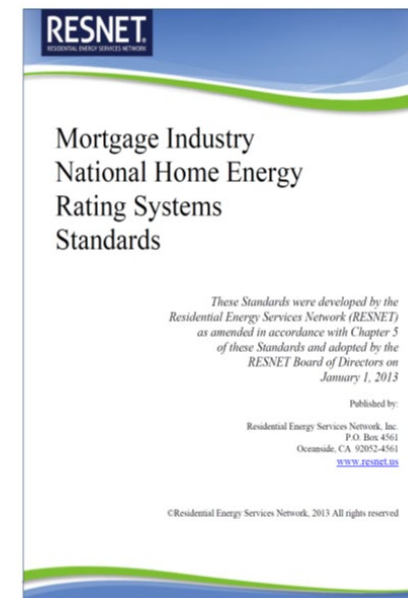
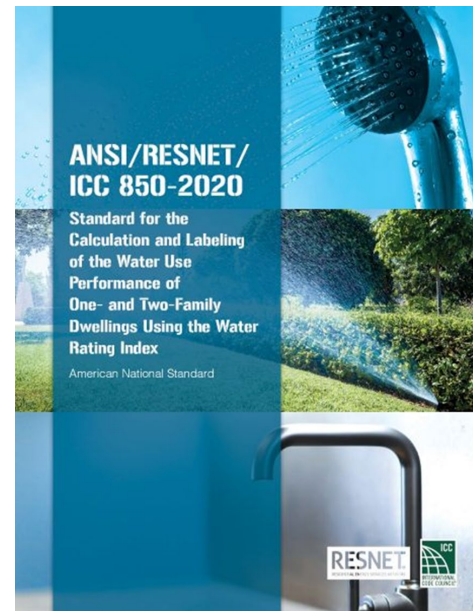
## How do I get started?

- Program Implementation Guidelines
- QA Providers
- HERS Raters and RFIs
- Builders
- Water Utilities



# Program Implementation

- Implementation “Guidelines” will eventually become part of MINHERS
- Guidelines Include:
  - QA Provider Accreditation/responsibilities
  - Rater/RFI Certification
  - QA Requirements
  - Submitting Ratings



# Provider Accreditation

- Application on RESNET Website
- Accreditation required to offer QA on H2O Ratings and WaterSense Labeled Homes
- 19 Accredited Providers
- Find a Provider:  
<https://www.resnet.us/providers/accredited-providers/approved-watersense-providers/>

The screenshot shows the RESNET website with the URL [resnet.us/providers/accredited-providers/approved-watersense-providers/](https://www.resnet.us/providers/accredited-providers/approved-watersense-providers/) in the browser address bar. A yellow banner at the top contains a warning icon and the text "RESNET COVID-19 Updates. [Click Here.](#)". The navigation bar includes the RESNET logo, the tagline "Leading the Path to Net Zero Energy Homes", and links for "Learn About HERS®", "Blog", "WHO WE ARE", "RATERS", "PROVIDERS" (highlighted in orange), and "BUILDERS". Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail reads "Home > Providers > Accredited Providers > Approved HERS H2O Providers". The main content area features a large image of a person working on a wall with a power tool, overlaid with a white box containing the text "APPROVED HERS H2O PROVIDERS". Below this, a paragraph states: "Approved HERS H2O providers have the responsibility of quality assurance oversight of all HERS H2O Ratings." At the bottom, a dark blue box contains the text "– National Registry of Approved HERS H2O Providers", followed by the text "Organizations approved to provide HERS H2O services."

resnet.us/providers/accredited-providers/approved-watersense-providers/

⚠ RESNET COVID-19 Updates. [Click Here.](#)

**RESNET**  
RESIDENTIAL ENERGY SERVICES NETWORK

Leading the Path to Net Zero Energy Homes

Learn About HERS® | Blog |

WHO WE ARE RATERS **PROVIDERS** BUILDERS

[Home](#) > [Providers](#) > [Accredited Providers](#) > Approved HERS H2O Providers

APPROVED HERS H2O PROVIDERS

Approved HERS H2O providers have the responsibility of quality assurance oversight of all HERS H2O Ratings.

– National Registry of Approved HERS H2O Providers

Organizations approved to provide HERS H2O services.

## HERS Raters and RFIs

- Must have QA Provider
- Take online H2O training
- Watch WaterSense V2 video
- Review calculation spreadsheet



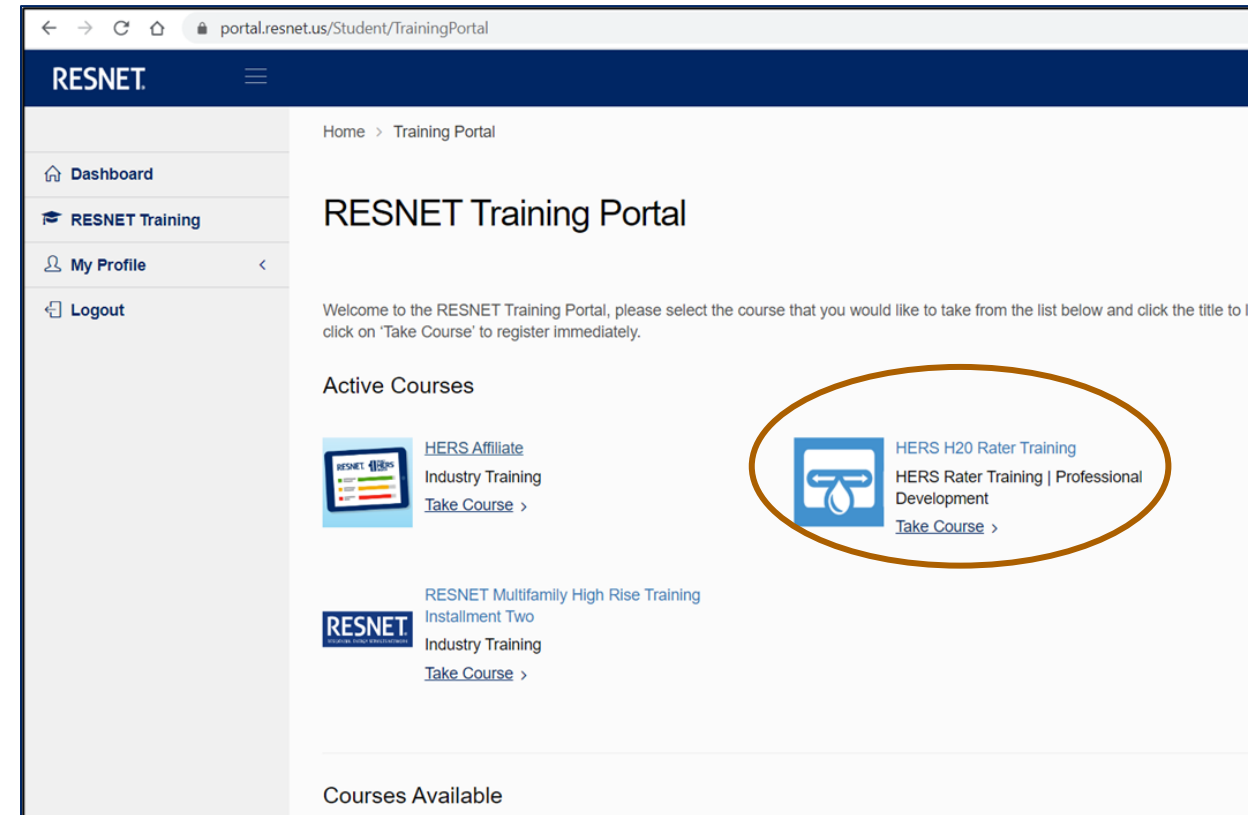
## What about California?

- CA HERS Raters can also participate
- CHEERS and CalCerts are accredited H2O Providers
- Must take training
- Final guidelines for CA in a week or two



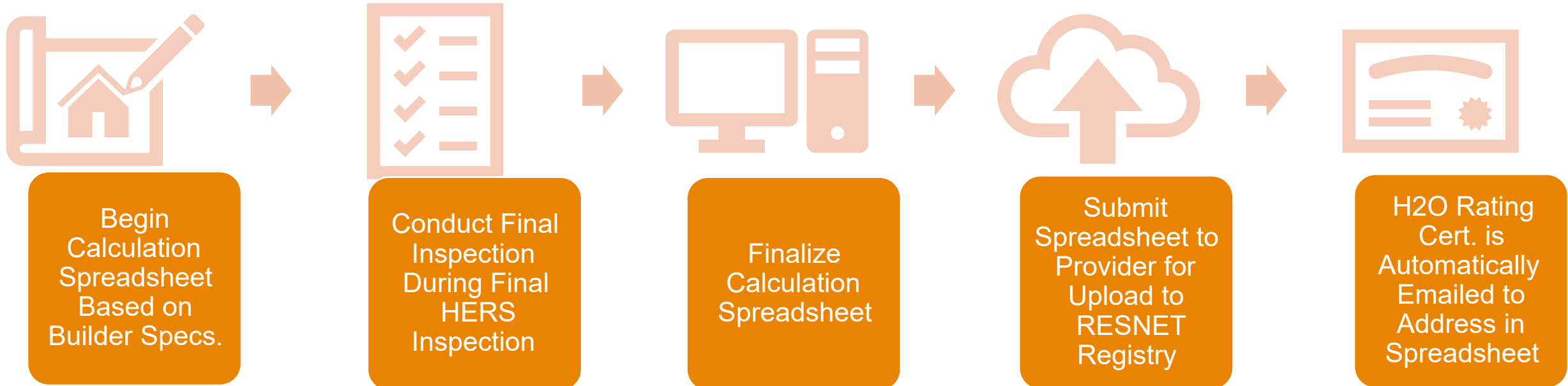
# HERS<sub>H2O</sub> Online Rater Training

- Portal.resnet.us
- 2-3 hours
- \$75
- 170+ certified
- Raters and RFIs should take it
- Required to do H2O Ratings and WaterSense





# The Process for a HERS<sub>H2O</sub> Rating

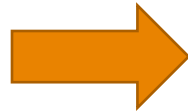




# Achieving the WaterSense Label

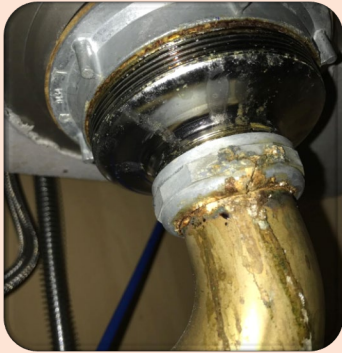


- Verify Builder is a WS Partner
- Achieve H2O Score of 70 or less
- Complete the checklist at the bottom of the H2O Calc. Spreadsheet



|     |   |    |  |  |
|-----|---|----|--|--|
| 100 | <b>Water Sense Mandatory Requirements</b> |    |  |  |
| 101 | WS_Pressure_loss_tests                    | No |  |  |
| 102 | WS_Leak_free_hot_water                    | No |  |  |
| 103 | WS_Leak_free_toilets                      | No |  |  |
| 104 | WS_Leak_free_bathroom_faucets             | No |  |  |
| 105 | WS_Leak_free_showerheads                  | No |  |  |
| 106 | WS_Leak_free_bathroom_tubs                | No |  |  |
| 107 | WS_Leak_free_kitchen_faucets              | No |  |  |
| 108 | WS_Leak_free_other_fixtures               | No |  |  |
| 109 | WS_Toilets_labeled                        | No |  |  |
| 110 | WS_Bathroom_sink_faucets_labeled          | No |  |  |
| 111 | WS_Showerheads_labeled                    | No |  |  |
| 112 |   |    |  |  |

## Indoor Inspection/Testing



Always  
check for  
leaks



Static  
Pressure  
Test



Fixture flow  
rates  
Toilet Flush  
volume



Appliance  
Information

# Using Outdoor Faucet for Static Pressure Test

- Covered in the online H2O training
- Plenty of Youtube videos if you're not familiar with it.
- Needed for the WS-required pressure loss test
- Four options for calc. spreadsheet



|    |                              |    |      |    |
|----|------------------------------|----|------|----|
| 30 | Home Water Features          |    |      |    |
| 31 | Water service pressure       |    |      |    |
| 32 | Pressure_tank_psi_limit      | No |      |    |
| 33 | Pressure_regulator_psi_limit | No |      |    |
| 34 | Documentation_psi            | No |      |    |
| 35 | Measured_pressure            | 75 | psig | (n |

## Toilets/Faucets/Showerheads

- Toilets
  - Avg. flush volume of all toilets
  - Single/Dual Flush
  - Non-water consuming toilets
- Faucets/Showerheads
  - Flow rate printed on fixture or in manufacturer specs OR
  - Flow rate test
  - Bathroom faucets are either 'Standard' or 'Low Flow' in spreadsheet (Low Flow = 1.5 gpm or less)

|    |                               |          |     |  |
|----|-------------------------------|----------|-----|--|
| 37 | Toilets:                      |          |     |  |
| 38 | Flush_Volume_Marker           | No       |     |  |
| 39 | No_single-flush_toilets       | 1        |     |  |
| 40 | No_dual-flush_toilets         | 0        |     |  |
| 41 | Single-flush_volume           | 1.60     | gpf |  |
| 42 | Dual-flush_volume             | 0.00     | gpf |  |
| 43 | Non-water-consuming           | No       |     |  |
| 44 | No_non-water_toilets          | 0        |     |  |
| 45 | Shower_head_flow_rate         | 2.50     | gpm |  |
| 46 | Lavitory_faucet_efficiency    | Standard |     |  |
| 47 | Kitchen_sink_faucet_flow_rate | 2.20     | gpm |  |



## Clothes Washers

- Be sure to record:
  - Make
  - Model Number
  - Capacity in Cubic Feet
  - Integrated Water Factor

|    |  |          |          |                      |  |
|----|--|----------|----------|----------------------|--|
| 60 | Clothes washer:  |          |          |                      |  |
| 61 | CW_Make  | XYZmake  |          | per specificaitons   |  |
| 62 | CW_Model   | X88model |          | per specificaitons   |  |
| 63 | CW_Capacity  | 3.0      | cu.ft    |                      |  |
| 64 | CW_Integrated_Water_Factor                                   | 11.4     |          | from CCMS database   |  |
| 65 | OR add following data to disaggregate hot and cold water use |          |          |                      |  |
| 66 | CW_IMEF  | 1.00     |          | from CCMS database   |  |
| 67 | CW_Label_Energy_Rating                                       | 400      | kWh/y    | (from label)         |  |
| 68 | CW_Electric_Hot_Water_Cost                                   | \$48     | \$/y     | (from label)         |  |
| 69 | CW_Gas_Hot_Water_Costs                                       | \$27     | \$/y     | (from label)         |  |
| 70 | CW_Electric_price  | \$0.12   | \$/kWh   | (from label)         |  |
| 71 | CW_Gas_price   | \$1.09   | \$/therm | (from label)         |  |
| 72 | CW_Wash_loads_per_week                                       | 6        |          | (integer from label) |  |

- DOE's Compliance Cert. Database is a great resource:
   
[https://www.regulations.doe.gov/certification-data/products.html#q=Product\\_Group\\_s%3A\\*](https://www.regulations.doe.gov/certification-data/products.html#q=Product_Group_s%3A*).

## Dishwashers

- Be sure to record:

- ▷ Make
- ▷ Model Number
- ▷ Capacity (Std. or Compact)
- ▷ Gallons per cycle

OR

- Use Energy Label data to determine

|    |  |          |          |                      |                        |
|----|--|----------|----------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 48 | Dishwasher                               |          |          |                      |                        |
| 49 | DW_Make                                  | WPCmake  |          |                      |                        |
| 50 | DW_Model                                 | WTDmodel |          |                      |                        |
| 51 | DW_Capacity                              | Standard |          |                      |                        |
| 52 | DW_Gallons_per_cycle                     | 4.00     |          |                      | Takes precedence if en |
| 53 | OR use label data to determine gal/cycle |          |          |                      |                        |
| 54 | DW_Label_Energy_Rating                   |          | kWh/y    | (from label)         |                        |
| 55 | DW_Electric_Hot_Water_Cost               |          | \$/y     | (from label)         |                        |
| 56 | DW_Gas_Hot_Water_Costs                   |          | \$/y     | (from label)         |                        |
| 57 | DW_Electric_price                        |          | \$/kWh   | (from label)         |                        |
| 58 | DW_Gas_price                             |          | \$/therm | (from label)         |                        |
| 59 | DW_Wash_loads_per_week                   |          |          | (integer from label) |                        |

## Outdoor Inspection/Testing



Landscape  
Design

Irrigated  
Area



Irrigation  
Controller



Swimming  
Pool/Spa?

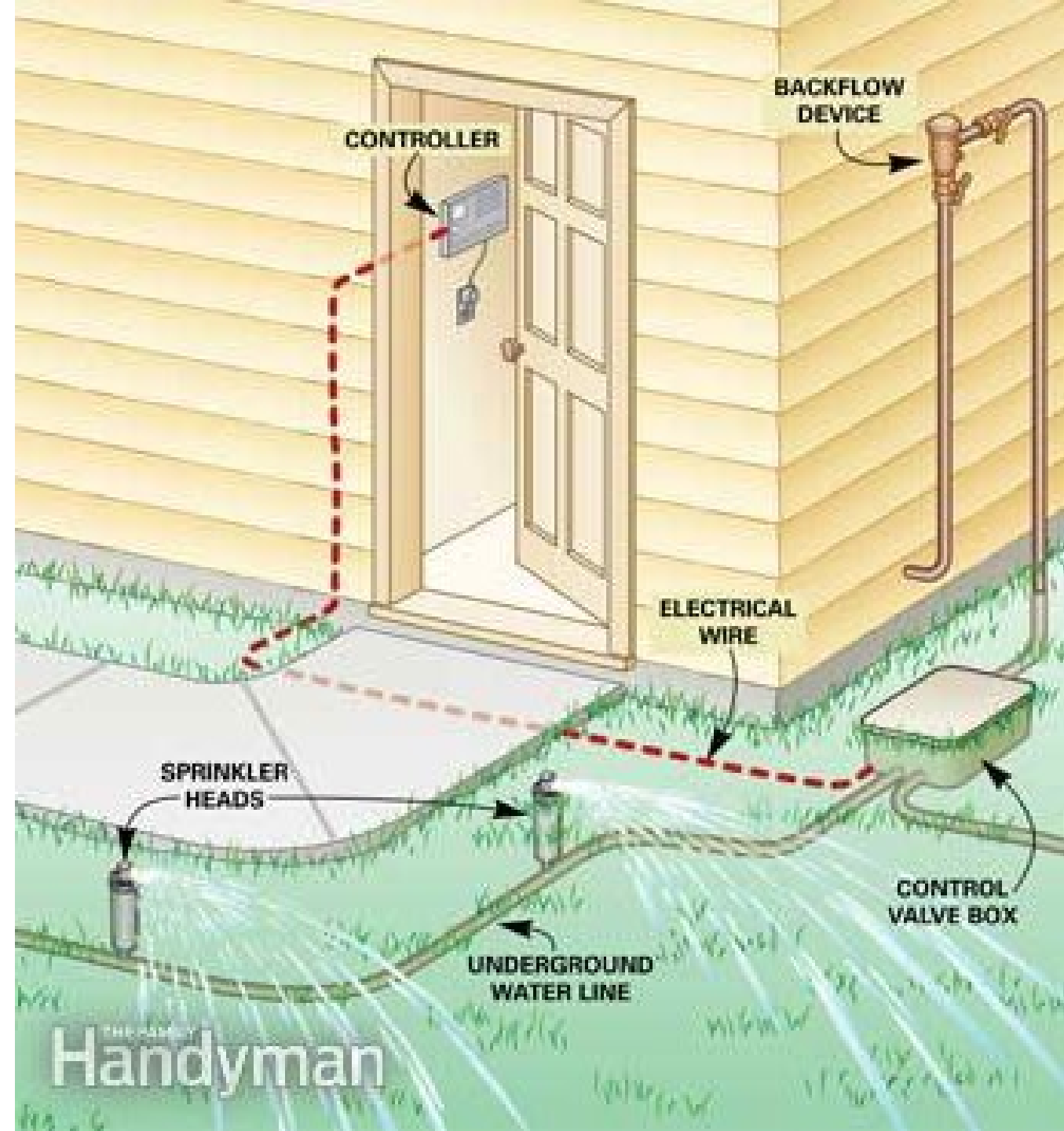


Irrigation  
Flow Rate?

\*Optional

## Outdoor Irrigation Basics

- Controller
  - ▷ Auto or Manual?
  - ▷ Smart controller?
- Emitters/ Heads
  - ▷ Drip, pop-up, rotating
- Backflow Device
- Control Box
  - ▷ Valves for each zone, run by controller



## Lot and Irrigated Area

- Use site plan or measure on-site
- Front area = entire “front yard”
- Irrigation area = only those parts of the yard receiving irrigation
- Pool/spa; controller; prof. audit
- RICl = Residential Irrigation Capacity Index

|    |                               |        |        |  |
|----|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--|
| 81 | <b>Landscape Design</b>       |        |        |  |
| 82 | Lot_Area                      | 10,000 | sq.ft. |  |
| 83 | Pad_footprint_area            | 1,400  | sq.ft. |  |
| 85 | Front_area                    | 5,000  | sq.ft. |  |
| 87 | Is_Back_area_improved         | Yes    |        |  |
| 88 | Front_irrigation_area         | 3,000  | sq.ft. |  |
| 89 | Back_irrigation_area          | 2,770  | sq.ft. |  |
| 90 | Total_irrigation_area         | 5,770  | sq.ft. |  |
| 91 | <b>Outdoor Water Features</b> |        |        |  |
| 92 | Pool_or_spas                  | No     |        |  |
| 93 | Irrigation_System             | Yes    |        |  |
| 94 | Profession_Irr_audit          | No     |        |  |
| 95 | Irr_Weather_Control           | No     |        |  |
| 96 | Use_RICl                      | No     |        |  |
| 97 | RICl_zone_flow_rates          | 15.0   |        |  |

## What is RICl?

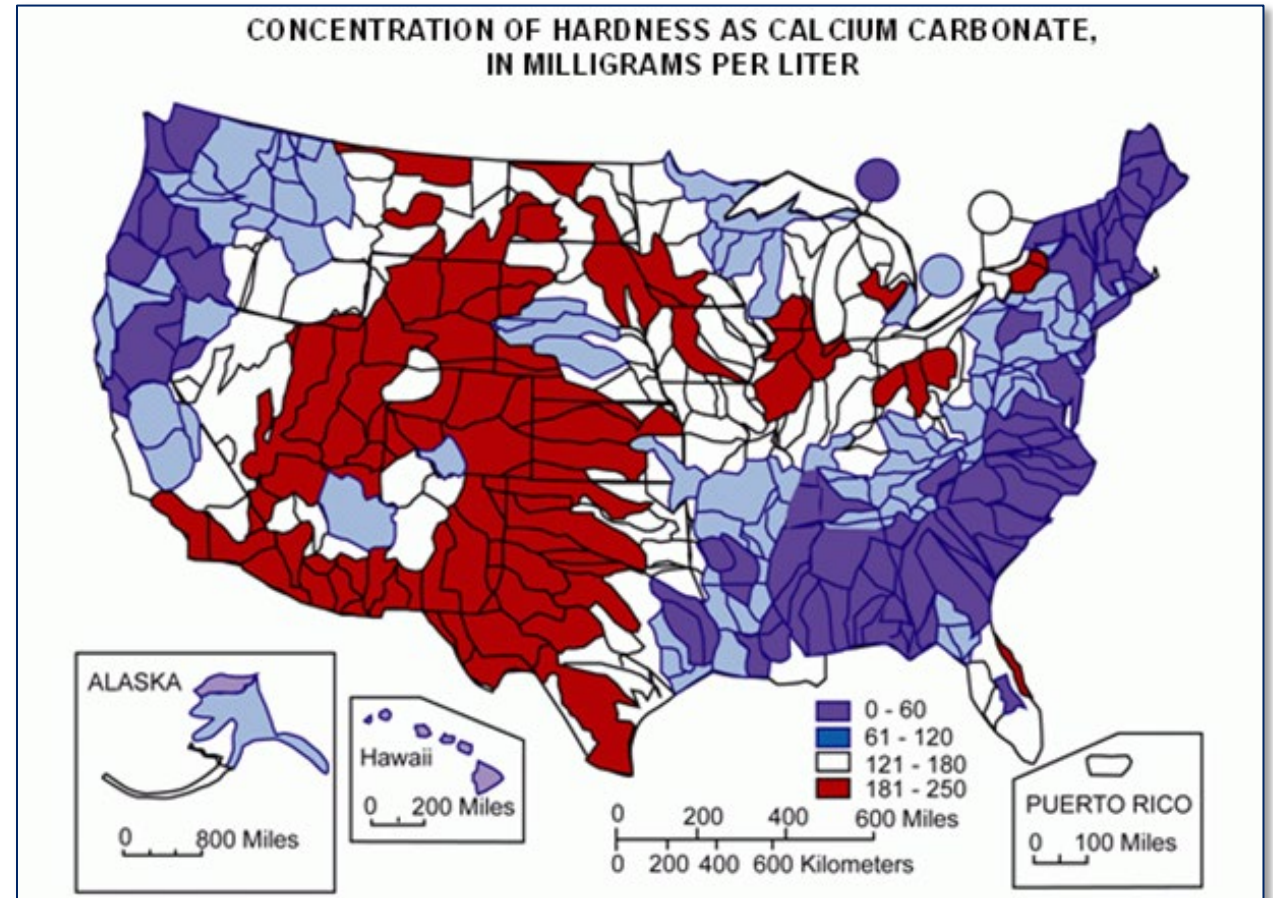
- An index within an index
- Estimate irrigation system water usage without knowledge of plantings
- Requires a test of irrigation flow rate
- Flow rate in GPM is entered into spreadsheet





## Is $HERS_{H_2O}$ climate specific?

- Net ET for Landscape Irrigation
  - ▷ Water and Climate Atlas Data
  - ▷ Processed at zip code level
- Mains Water Temperature
  - ▷ Impacts hot water wasted
  - ▷ Based on average daily temp at TMY weather station
- Hardness of Water
  - ▷ Based on USGS hardness data
  - ▷ Processed at the zip code level



## Builders

- Contact your HERS Rater to get started
- Use H2O Rating data for environmental reporting
  - SASB standard has metric for number of WaterSense Fixtures installed

Percentage of installed water fixtures certified to WaterSense® specifications

Quantitative

Percentage (%)



INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR

## HOME BUILDERS

Sustainability Accounting Standard

Sustainable Industry Classification System® (SICS®) IF-HB

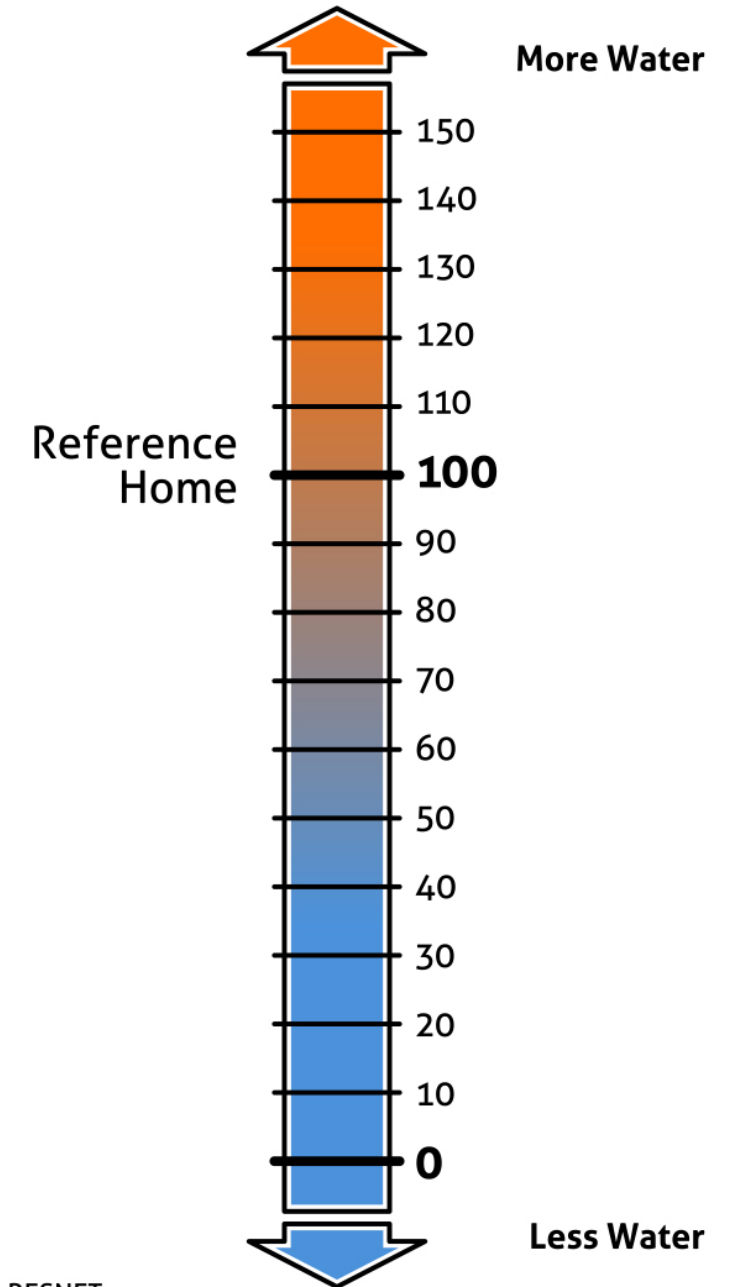
Prepared by the  
Sustainability Accounting Standards Board

October 2018

INDUSTRY STANDARD | VERSION 2018-10

## Water Utilities

- Use HERS<sub>H2O</sub> as a water efficiency program
  - Calculator gives consumption estimates
  - Set target scores for incentives
- Based on national standard
  - ANSI/RESNET/ICC 850-2020



THANK YOU!

Reach out with questions:

[Ryan@resnet.us](mailto:Ryan@resnet.us)