



# WaterSmart - Success Stories City of El Cerrito / EBMUD Partners in Conservation



## Success in Water Conservation

City of El Cerrito  
10890 San Pablo Ave.  
El Cerrito, Ca. 94530  
(510) 215-4339

### Water Savings:

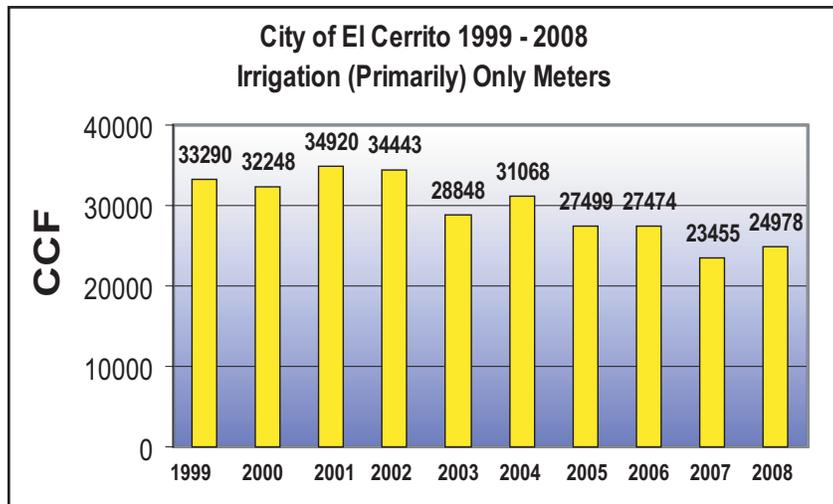
26,120,000 gallons used in 2001  
18,684,000 gallons used in 2008  
29% reduction in water use

50 Irrigation Only Meters



## City of El Cerrito / EBMUD - Partners in Conservation

Since 1995, El Cerrito has participated in EBMUD's free **Irrigation Audit** (survey) program for commercial large-landscape customers. In 2007-2008, as part of EBMUD's **Irrigation Upgrade (Rebate) Program**, the City installed new central irrigation controllers (satellites) and new sprinklers equipped with check valves. El Cerrito received a rebate for upgrades to existing irrigation systems on San Pablo Avenue, and for making a 1-year water budget. The budget was based on local weather and the total irrigated area..



EBMUD's **Water Budget Program** assisted the City with identifying the irrigated area of all "irrigation only" meters that serve the cities roadside, medians, parks, and City Hall. As a result, in 2009, all irrigation only meters were entered into the program and water budgets are now printed on all irrigation only water bills.

Through these initiatives, by 2008, El Cerrito had reduced its annual water consumption by over 7,000,000 gallons, a 29% savings from its peak consumption year of 2001.

In March of 2009, El Cerrito began planning for renovation of its Community and Pool Center. The planning process included an EBMUD WaterSmart survey. The survey identified a potential reduction of over 1.2 million gallons of water per year, equating to just under \$7,000 savings per year for water and energy. The City plans to implement new water efficient devices and landscaping as funding allows.



## San Pablo Avenue Median Streetscape:



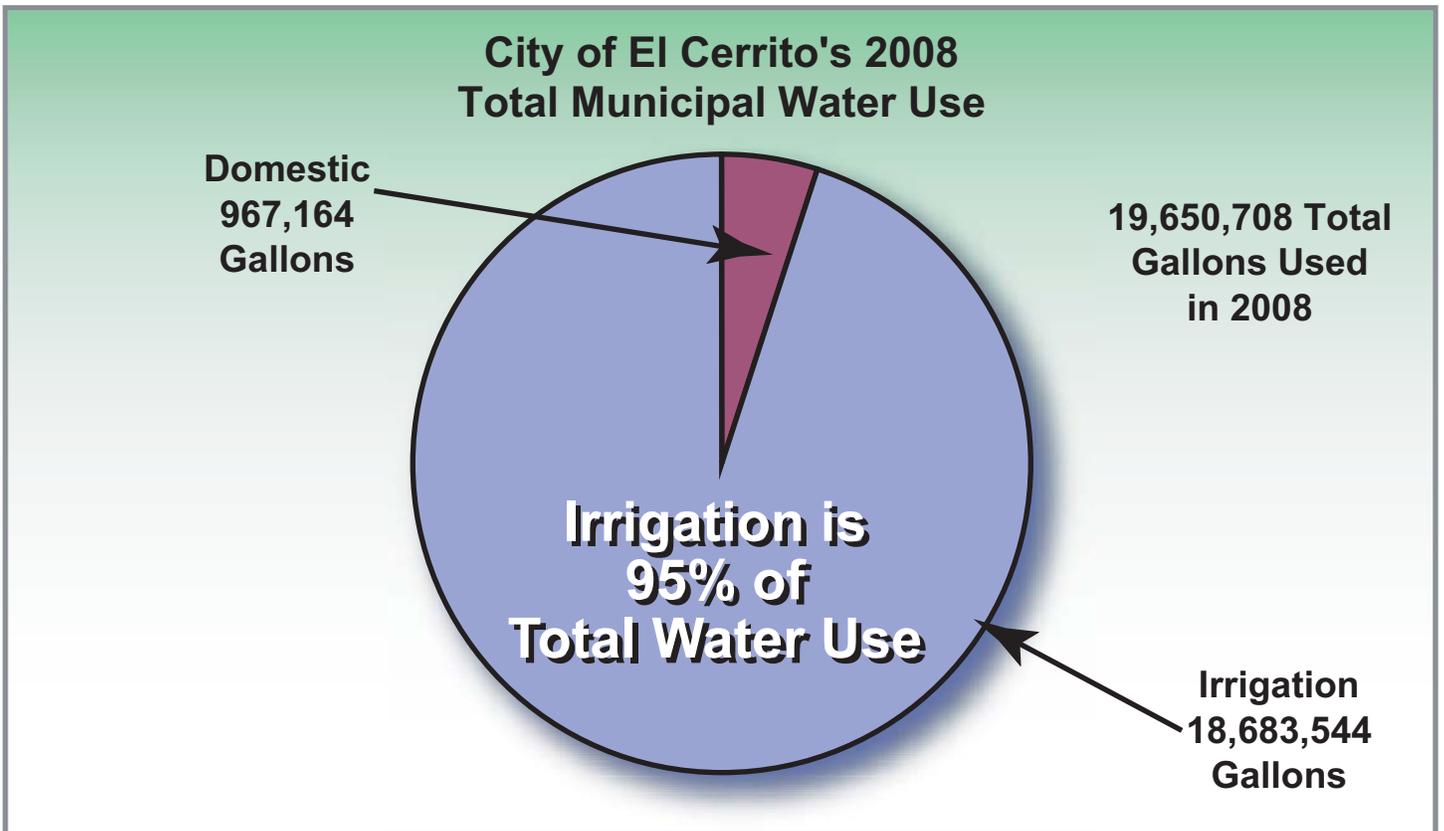
In 2006, El Cerrito initiated an innovative project to construct a water efficient streetscape on its main thoroughfare of San Pablo Avenue. The project began with banners and signage created and installed throughout the city. In 2007-2008, street median design and construction began and by 2009, the City had achieved completion of newly designed street medians that incorporated "*Bay Friendly*" landscaping methods designed to reduce environmental impacts and save labor and water costs. All turf grass in medians was replaced with colorful, low water-use plants.

The City participated in EBMUD's commercial irrigation upgrade (rebate) program, installing a new central control irrigation system with high efficiency sprinklers. Meeting the water budget set by EBMUD, El Cerrito received the full rebate amount. Participation in the program reduced water consumption by over 50%, saving over 1.1 million gallons compared to historical use.

## Construction of New City Hall:

In September of 2006, El Cerrito made plans to erect a new City Hall. The project was begun that year and completed in September of 2008. The City implemented water conservation initiatives as part of the project, resulting in the installation of high efficiency toilets, waterless urinals, and faucet aerators. In addition, 14,000 square feet of colorful, low water-use *Bay Friendly* landscaping, a dedicated irrigation-only meter, and an in-line drip irrigation system were installed.





Great work!



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