California Housing Facts
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Building Water Efficiency into Every Home in California

The Building Industry's Leadership on Water Efficiency Is Saving the State Billions of Gallons Annually

- The California Building Industry Association (CBIA) has been a leader in instituting water and energy efficiency best practices, and has been one of the state's strongest partner in developing and implementing building standards that significantly reduce energy and water use in new homes and buildings.

- CBIA proudly supported the nation's first mandatory green building standards (CALGreen) and updated plumbing fixture standards through the Energy Commission, which requires a 20% reduction in indoor water use.

- Currently, new three bedroom single-family homes with four occupants uses an estimated 46,500 gallons of water per year in internal use – a 50% reduction from homes built in 1980.

- Because of the water conservation mandates for new homes over the past four years, research shows that existing homes represent the greater water savings potential than newly constructed homes in the state.

- As of January 2014, California has a total housing stock of 13,624,000 dwelling units and of that 9,153,400 (67%) were constructed prior to the adoption water-conserving plumbing features.

- This means that 2 out of every 3 homes in California were built without complying with any water efficiency standards.

- If existing homes were required to comply with most recent building and plumbing building standards, over 300 billion gallons of water could be saved or 920,665 acre feet of water.

- The average cost to upgrade existing housing with new water-efficient showers, fixtures and toilets on average would cost $1,500 or less per home.

Source: *The California Homebuilding Foundation: Codes and Standards Research Report, California's Residential Indoor Water Use*
http://www.cbia.org/uploads/5/1/2/6/51268865/codes_and_standards_residential_indoor_water_use_may_15_v2.pdf