



Beach Pollution Reduction That Improves the Environment While Saving Money

**A position paper by Robert Ooten
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The over-watering of parks, golf courses, and residential lawns creates urban runoff that pollutes ocean shoreline, closes beaches, and makes beach visitors sick.

Sensible water conservation technology is available that will reduce urban runoff and beach pollution, expand the capacity of our existing water supply, while not impacting customers' life styles.

Environmental groups, Scouting programs, and others have done a good job of alerting us that oil, leaves, and feces in the gutters carried by water cause a toxic brew going to the ocean. The cheapest and easiest fix is to reduce this brew at the source by providing customer assistance in applying new irrigation system controllers. This will prove to be much less costly than urban runoff treatment and will expand our water supply at the same time.

Testing of new weather-based irrigation controllers proves that they can reduce urban runoff up to 71%. The water and dollar savings will add up quickly since about two thirds of a residence's water usage is for irrigation. The net saving is estimated to be 20% of a residence's water usage. The system-wide water savings would be equivalent to the water supply for 4,000 homes or about 8% of the present water supply.

I would support expanded customer service, education, and rebates to make these irrigation systems widely available. The average residence pays about \$40 per month for water and would save \$8 per month by installing a \$150 weather-based irrigation controller. Without rebates, customers would break even in two years. With rebates, sooner.

Energetic, knowledgeable, and passionate Water Board members are required to write and cause these types of policy directives to be successful. I will be that energetic and passionate Water Board member and I am knowledgeable in the water field.