

## How can I get CIMIS information?

CIMIS information is available 24 hours a day on the Internet at [www.cimis.water.ca.gov](http://www.cimis.water.ca.gov).

However, to take full advantage of the Web site, registration is strongly encouraged for frequent CIMIS users. Registration is free and easy.

CIMIS data is also available from:

- ▶ newspapers, radio, and many Internet Web sites
- ▶ U.C. Cooperative Extension Farm Advisors
- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ▶ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- ▶ California Data Exchange Service (CDEC)



## Where can I get more information?

For more detailed information on CIMIS, how it works, how to use it, and how to get on the network, simply go online to [www.cimis.water.ca.gov](http://www.cimis.water.ca.gov). For more assistance with CIMIS, contact any of the following DWR staff.

### California Irrigation Management Unit

Kent Frame, *Chief*  
(916) 651-7030  
[kframe@water.ca.gov](mailto:kframe@water.ca.gov)

Bekele Temesgen  
(916) 651-9679  
[temesgen@water.ca.gov](mailto:temesgen@water.ca.gov)

Gwen Huff  
(916) 651-9672  
[ghuff@water.ca.gov](mailto:ghuff@water.ca.gov)

### Northern Region *Red Bluff*

Mark Rivera  
(530) 529-7301  
[mriviera@water.ca.gov](mailto:mriviera@water.ca.gov)

Michael Serna  
(530) 529-7346  
[sernam@water.ca.gov](mailto:sernam@water.ca.gov)

### North Central Region *Sacramento*

Jan Carey  
(916) 376-9630  
[jcarey@water.ca.gov](mailto:jcarey@water.ca.gov)

Kim Rosmier  
(916) 227-7584  
[krosmier@water.ca.gov](mailto:krosmier@water.ca.gov)

### South Central Region *Fresno*

Steve Ewert  
(559) 230-3334  
[sewert@water.ca.gov](mailto:sewert@water.ca.gov)

Neil Rambo  
(559) 230-3357  
[nrambo@water.ca.gov](mailto:nrambo@water.ca.gov)

### Southern Region *Glendale*

Sergio Fierro  
(818) 500-1645 ext. 247  
[sergiof@water.ca.gov](mailto:sergiof@water.ca.gov)

Robert Fastenau  
(818) 500-1645 ext. 243  
[fastenau@water.ca.gov](mailto:fastenau@water.ca.gov)



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# CIMIS

CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM



## Information to Help California Irrigate Efficiently

State of California • Department of Water Resources • Office of Water Use Efficiency  
[www.cimis.water.ca.gov](http://www.cimis.water.ca.gov)

## What is CIMIS?

The California Irrigation Management Information System is an integrated network of over 130 computerized weather stations located in many areas of California. The system is operated by the California Department of Water Resources.

CIMIS helps agricultural growers and park, golf course, and other landscape managers develop water budgets for determining when to irrigate and how much water to apply. The result is improved water and energy management through efficient irrigation practices.

CIMIS is also used for other applications such as:

- ▶ resources management
- ▶ meteorological and integrated pest management modeling
- ▶ resource planning in forestry
- ▶ local and statewide water planning
- ▶ hydrological research
- ▶ air pollution monitoring
- ▶ legal investigations



## Why use CIMIS?

Improvements in agriculture and landscape irrigation efficiency can mean the difference between profit and loss to many irrigation managers. These improvements can also save water, energy, and capital outlay costs for water purveyors. However, knowing when to irrigate and how much water to apply is sometimes difficult for growers and landscape managers to determine.

CIMIS is a **FREE** service that can help growers and landscape managers improve irrigation efficiency by providing them with weather information needed for calculating water



budgets. Water budgets can then be used to determine when to irrigate and how much water to apply.



## How does CIMIS work?

Weather data are collected daily from each CIMIS station and sent to a centralized computer database. "Reference evapotranspiration" or "ET<sub>o</sub>" is then calculated from this information.

ET<sub>o</sub> is the combined value of pasture grass water use and soil evaporation. The daily water needs of plants can be estimated by using ET<sub>o</sub> and crop or landscape coefficients (factors which adjust ET<sub>o</sub> for specific types of plants).

From this information, growers and landscapers can establish a water budget irrigation schedule that will tell them when to irrigate and how much water to apply. In many cases, this method of irrigation scheduling can reduce the amount of water applied during a season and—at the same time—improve plant growth.



## CIMIS helps to:

- ▶ adapt irrigation to specific climates and locations
- ▶ save water, energy, and money
- ▶ reduce labor, pesticide, and fertilizer costs
- ▶ improve crop yields (quantity and quality)
- ▶ improve landscape appearance and health
- ▶ reduce drainage and runoff
- ▶ prevent groundwater contamination