

# Community Meeting

## Updating the Sustainable Water Use Ordinance

March 27, 2024



**WATER AND  
POWER**

# Questions and Comments from Attendees

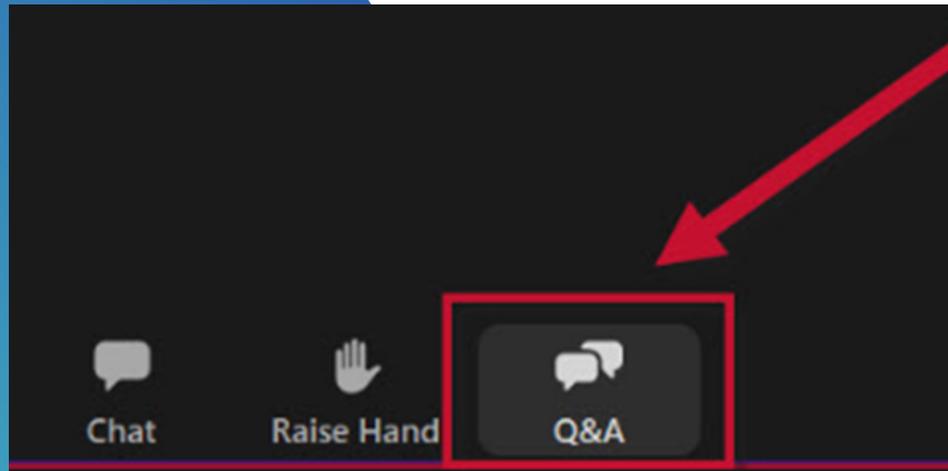
Please save your questions and comments until the end of this presentation.

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# Purpose of Community Meetings

- Understand BWP's water resources & the impact of climate change
- Gather input to update the Sustainable Water Use Ordinance
- Input will be shared with City executives and leadership



# Burbank's Water System

Richard Wilson  
Assistant General Manager  
Water Services

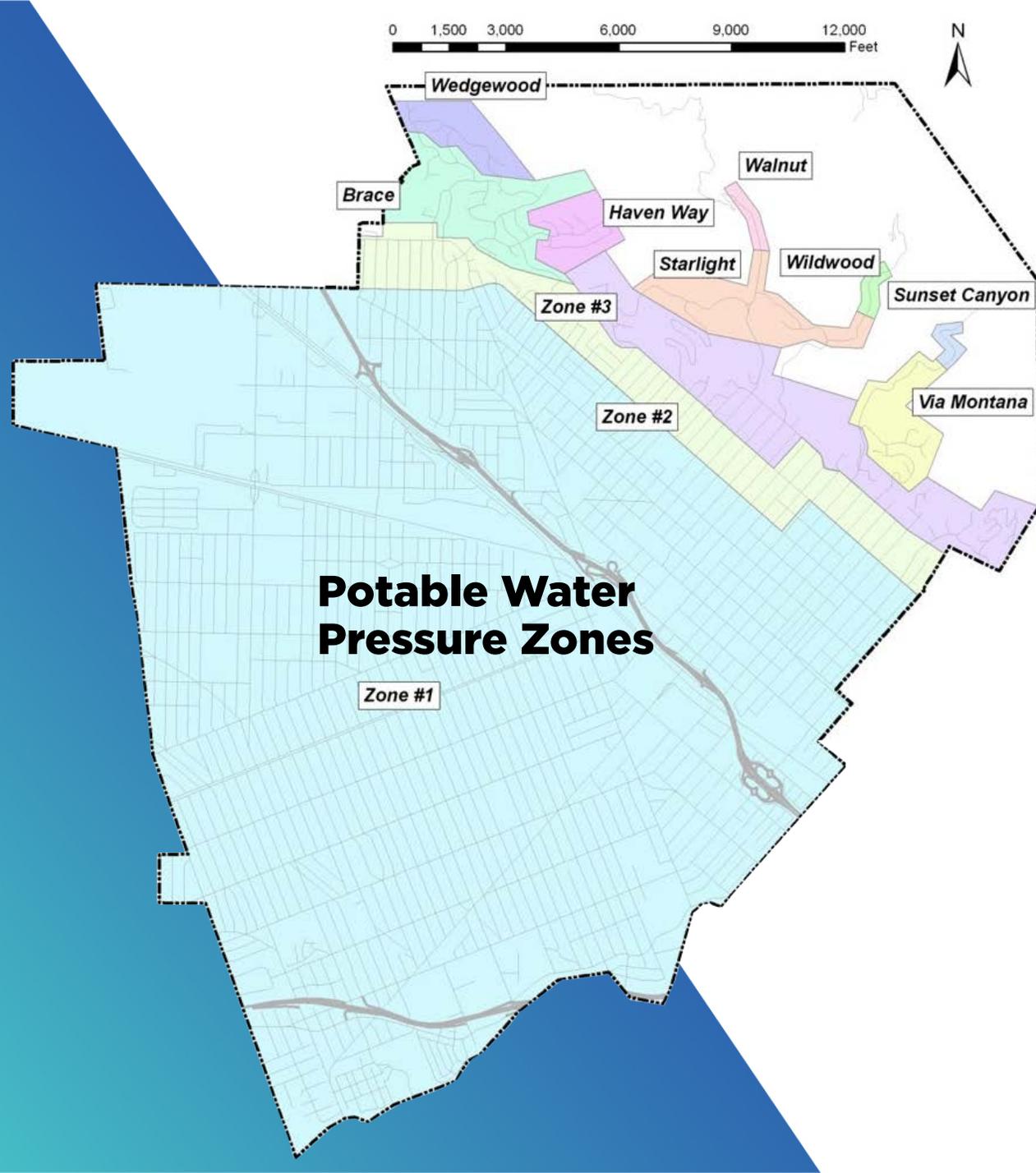


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# Story of Burbank's Water

<https://f.io/x8ji4Zrm>





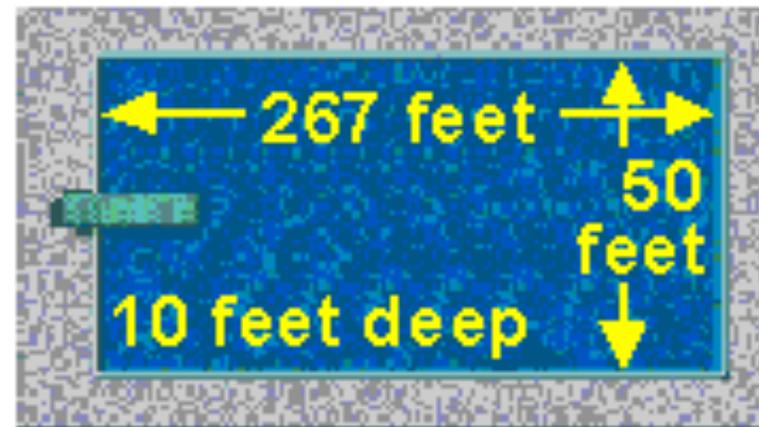
# Potable System

- 286 Miles of pipe
- 6,217 Valves
- 1,844 Hydrants
- 35 Boosters
- 5 Metropolitan Water District Connections
- 11 Pressure zones

# Burbank Water Demand

- 26,800 service connections
- Average demand: 14.5 Million Gallons/Day
- Max day: ~ 21 Million Gallons

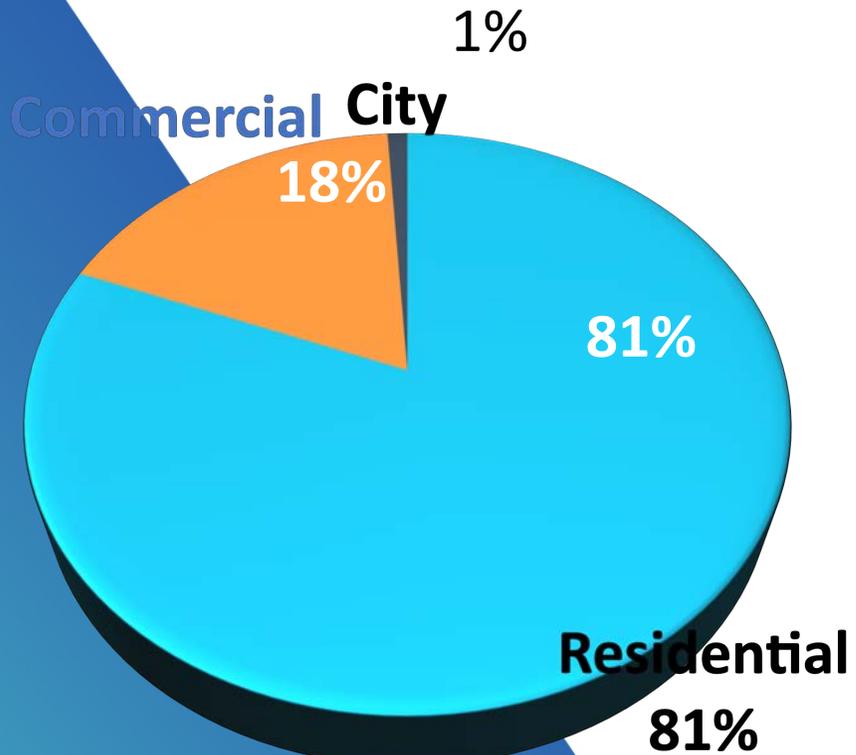
1 million gallons is:



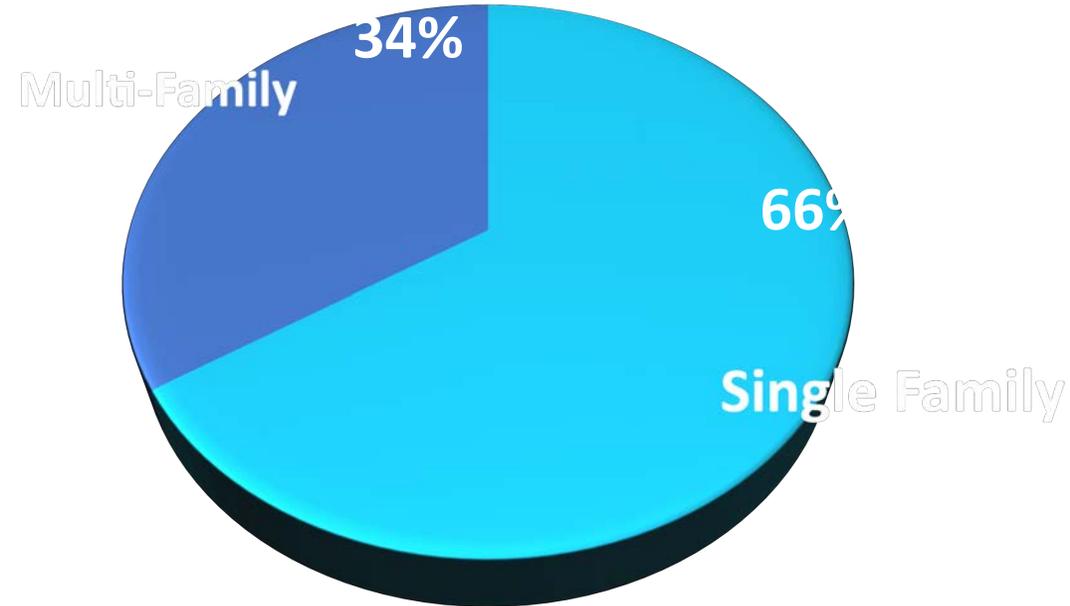
or



# Burbank Water End Use



## Residential Breakdown



# BWP Has Two Main Water Sources



- No Native Water Rights
- Local treated groundwater
- MWD Treated Deliveries
  - 5 treated MWD connections
  - 1 raw water connection

# Water Supply Facts

- Burbank does not have water rights

Water must be purchased and imported by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD)



- BWP “spreads” untreated water onto the ground where it seeps into the aquifer.

# Spreading Grounds



- Located in Sylmar at the terminus of MWD's San Fernando Tunnel
- Deliveries are spread at Pacoima and/or Lopez spreading grounds
- Relied on for approximately 8,000 acre-feet per year
- Necessary for maintaining groundwater inventory

# Aerial View of Spreading Grounds



# Burbank Operable Unit (BOU)



- Treats the groundwater to remove chemicals from Lockheed's airplane manufacturing operations
- Required by the EPA to remediate the contamination
- Water quality meets or exceeds state and federal water quality regulations

# Oversight of the Ground Water Basin

- The Watermaster oversees the San Fernando Ground Water Basin
  - Keeps the official account of what is stored, used, and transferred
  - Burbank purchases from MWD and does not have water supply projects
  - BWP must maximize what we already have

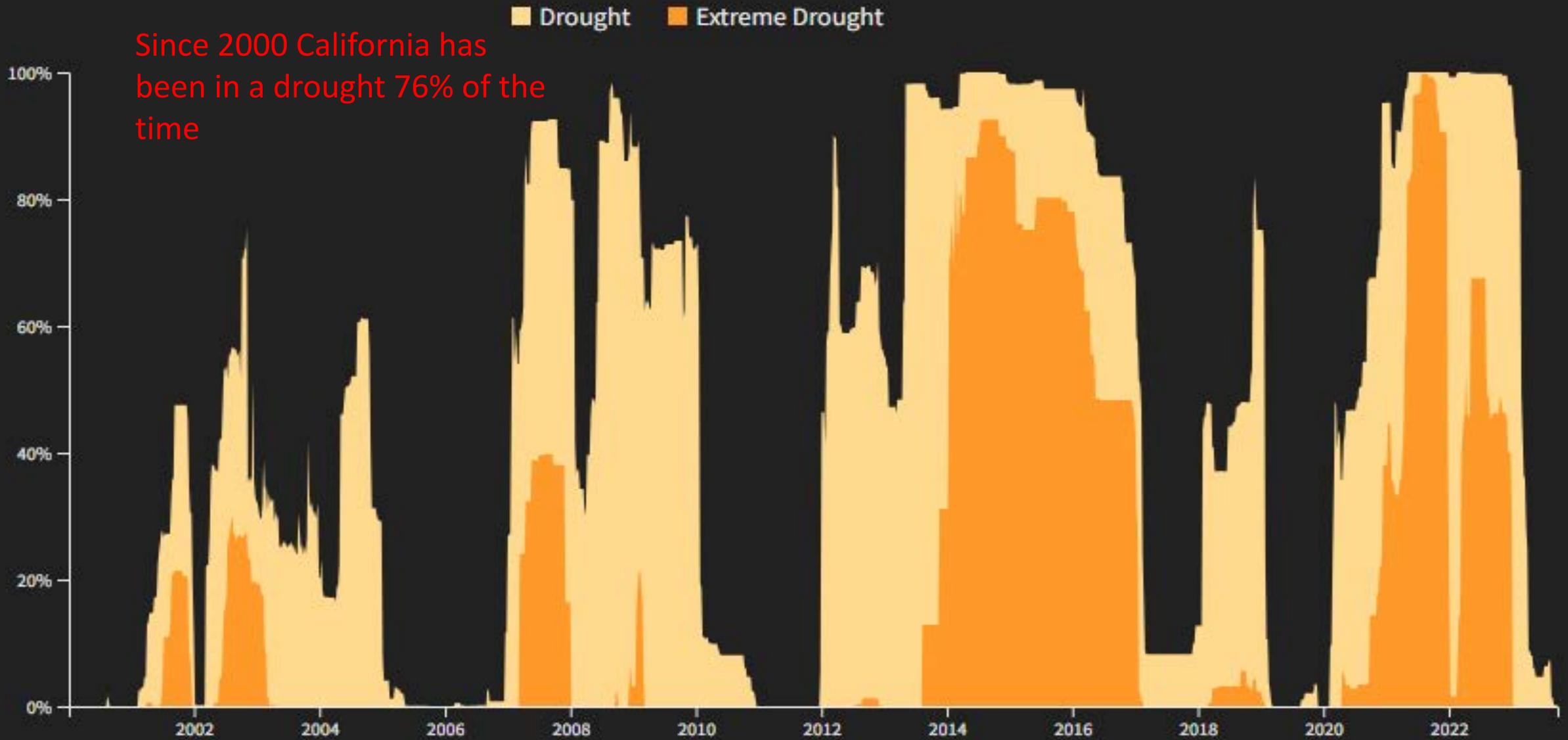


# Historical Water Demand

## Burbank Water Demand 1970-2023



# A historical look at drought conditions in California, 2000-Present



Source: [National Integrated Drought Information System](#)

# New Legislation:

## Making Conservation a California Way of Life



**Residential Indoor**  
(Rindoor)

+



**Residential Outdoor**  
(Routdoor)

+



**CII-DIM Outdoor**  
(CIIDIM)

+



**Water Loss**  
(L)

+



*If applicable:*  
**Variances (V) and/or  
Bonus Incentive (BPR)**

# Burbank's Sustainable Water Use Ordinance

**Drew Johnstone**  
Sustainability Officer



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# What is the Sustainable Water Use Ordinance?



- Six stages
  - Maximizing efficient use of water
  - Preventing waste
  - Enforcement to discourage wasteful use

# Existing Watering Schedule

Stages	Number of Watering days Summer	Number of Watering days Winter
<b>1</b>	  	  
<b>2</b>	  	
<b>3</b>	 	
<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b>	2 days/month	
<b>6</b>	No irrigation	



# Why Update the Sustainable Water Use Ordinance?



- Greater variability and unpredictability of weather patterns
- California's arid climate
- New technologies

# Other Factors to Consider



- Best practices of horticulture management
- California native landscaping
- Sustain more plant and animal life



# Gathering Input

**Sid Saini**

Sr. Administrative Analyst



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# Research conducted on various water agencies



- Other water agencies – locally and nationally
- Recommendations
  - Metropolitan Water District
  - State Water Resources Control Board
  - Department of Water Resources

# Input is being gathered from a wide range of sources



- Horticulture subject matter experts
- Chamber of Commerce
- Sustainable Burbank Commission

# Community input is gathered



- In-person and virtual meetings
- Survey
- BWP Board Mtgs



# Feedback from Subject Matter Experts



- No lawn watering during sunlight hours
- Multiple start times per irrigation cycle
- Promote soil moisture sensors and weather-based irrigation controllers
- Focus on leaks and irrigation

# Feedback from community meetings

- Reinforced identified water use issues
- Aligned with the survey results



# BWP Sustainable Water Use Ordinance Survey Results



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# 467 Responses

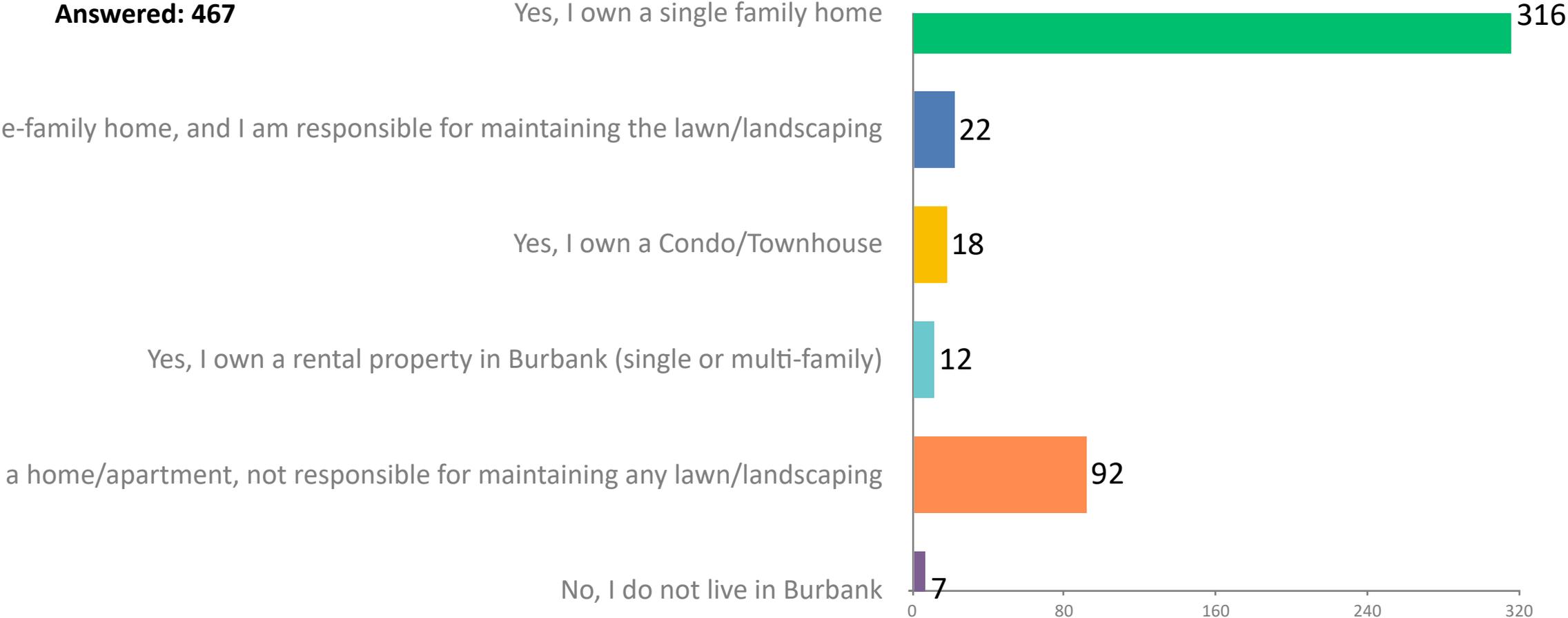
- Survey launch date: Feb 2, 2024
- Date of summary: March 25, 2024



# 68% of respondents are homeowners

## Do you live or own a rental property in Burbank?

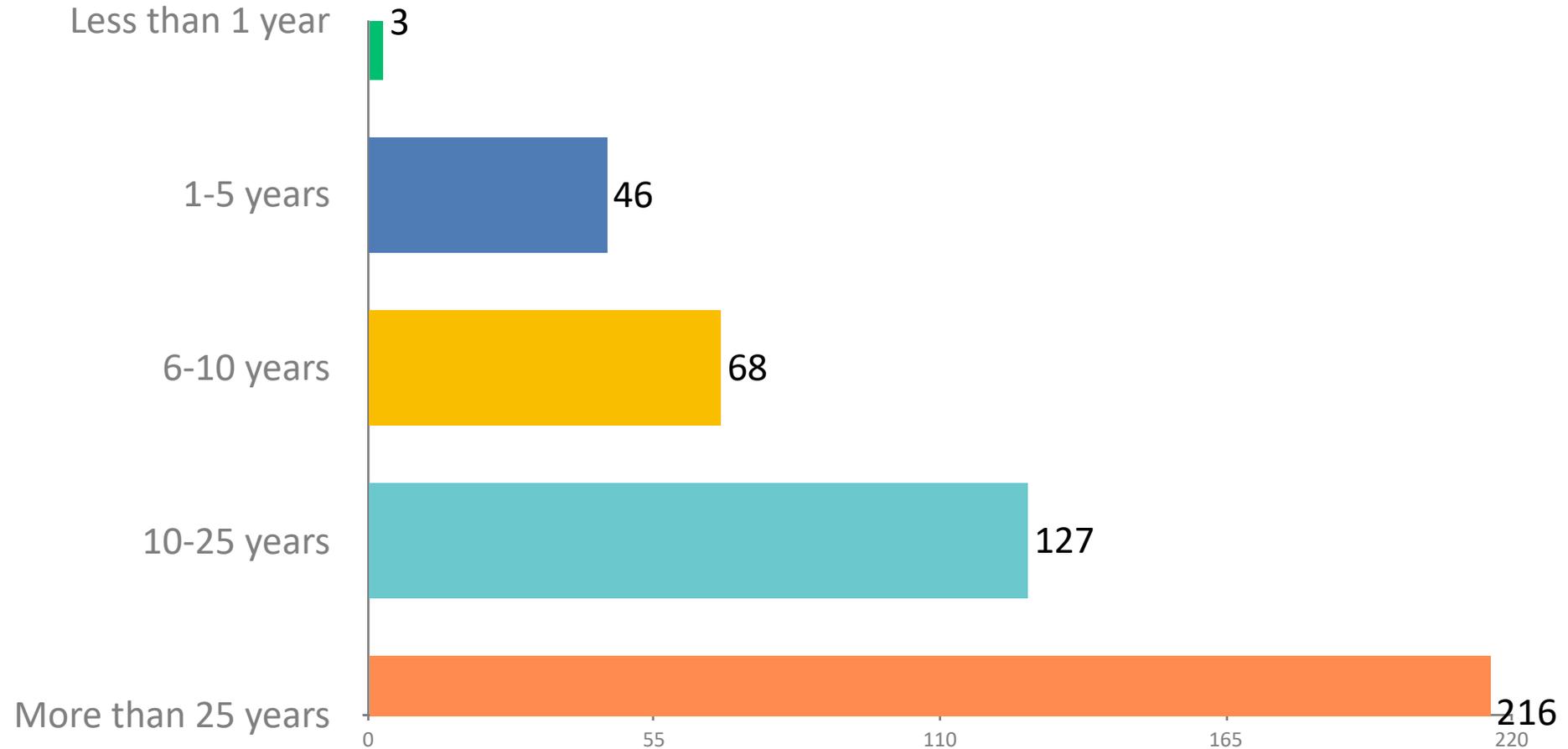
Answered: 467



# 47% of respondents have lived in Burbank for more than 25 years

## How long have you lived in Burbank?

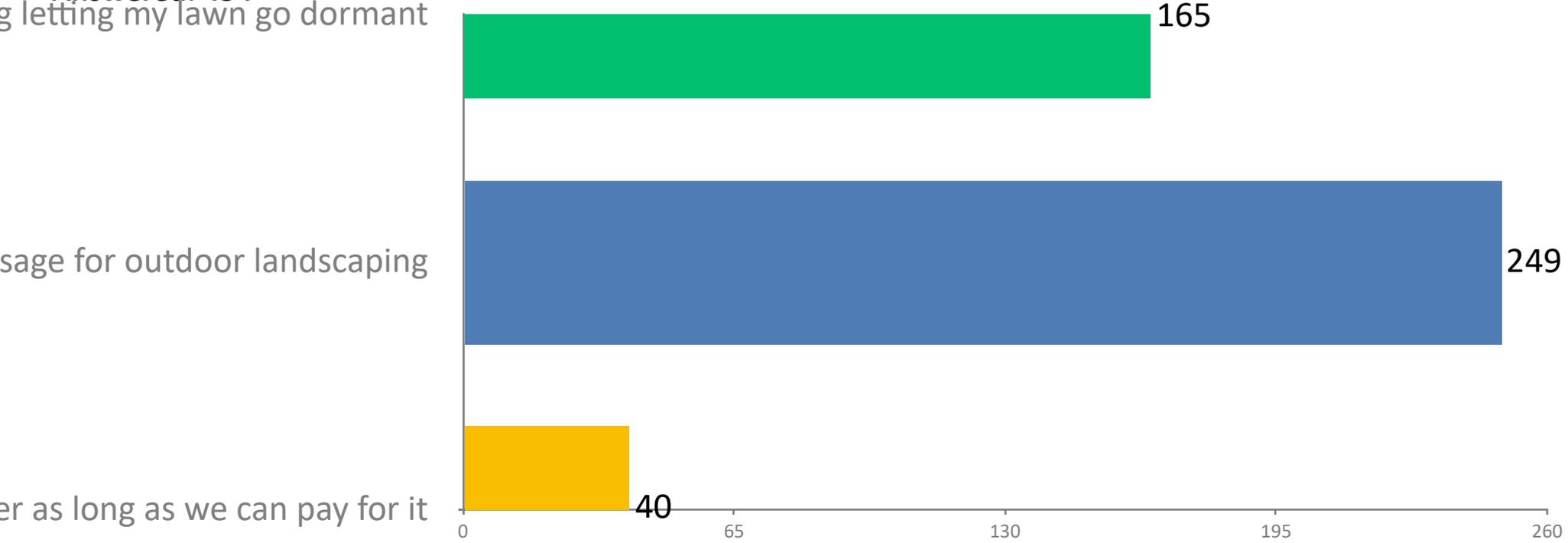
Answered: 460



# Most respondents are willing to reduce their outdoor usage during a drought

During a severe drought, how willing are you to reduce or stop outdoor water usage, including lawn and landscape watering?

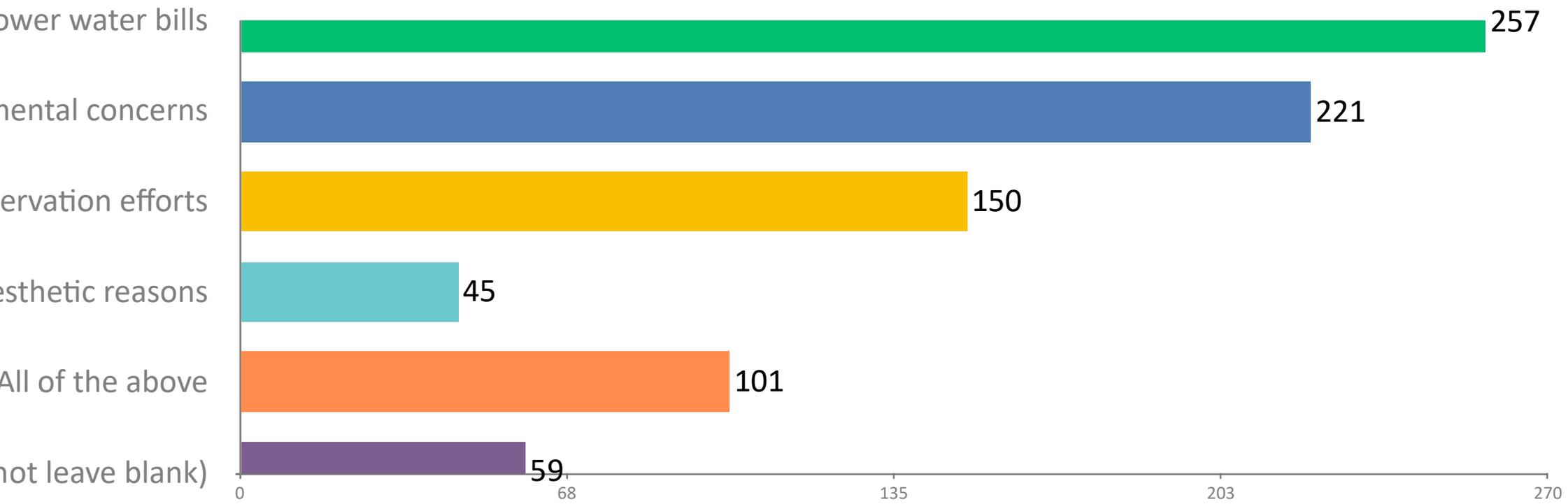
Answered: 454



# Lower water bills and environmental concerns are the biggest drivers of water conservation

**What motivates you to conserve water in your landscaping practices?  
(select all that apply)**

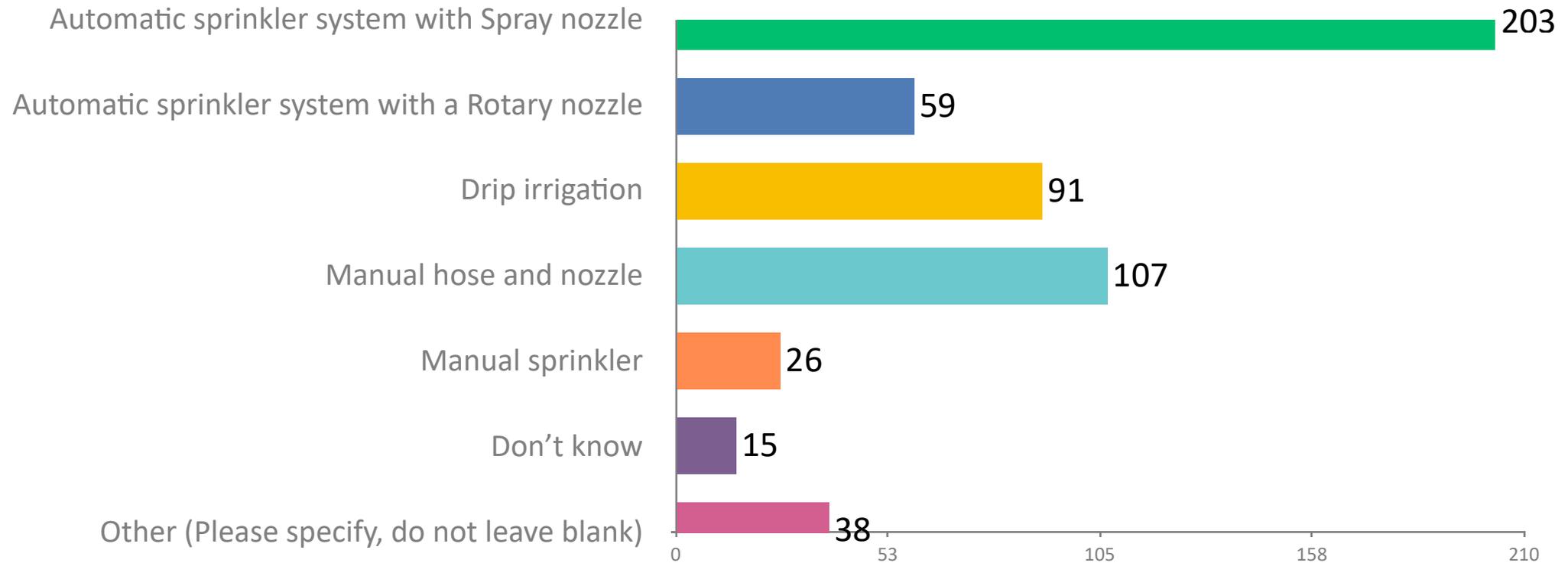
Answered: 453



# 44% of homeowners use traditional spray nozzles

## How do you primarily water your lawn and landscape (select all that apply)

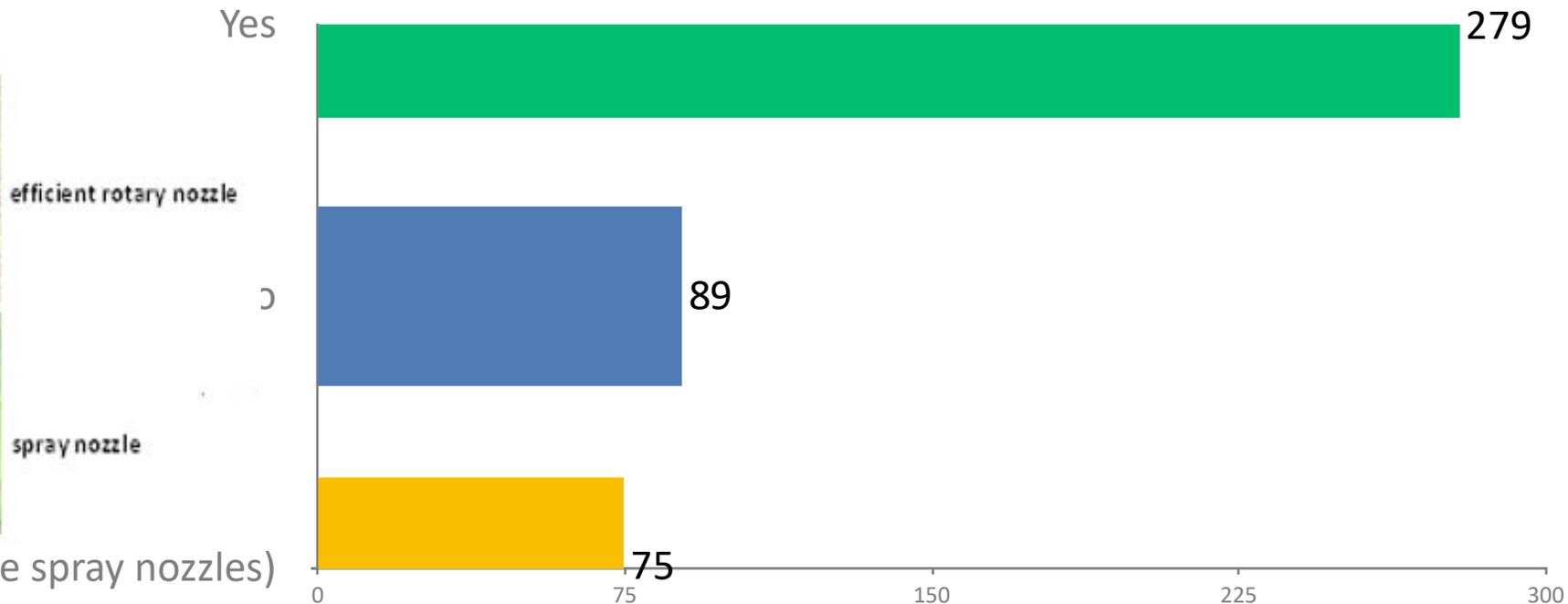
Answered: 460



# 63% of respondents are willing to switch to rotary nozzles

**Rotary nozzles use 20% less water than conventional spray nozzles.  
Would you consider switching your conventional spray nozzles to rotary nozzles if rebates were provided for rotary nozzles?**

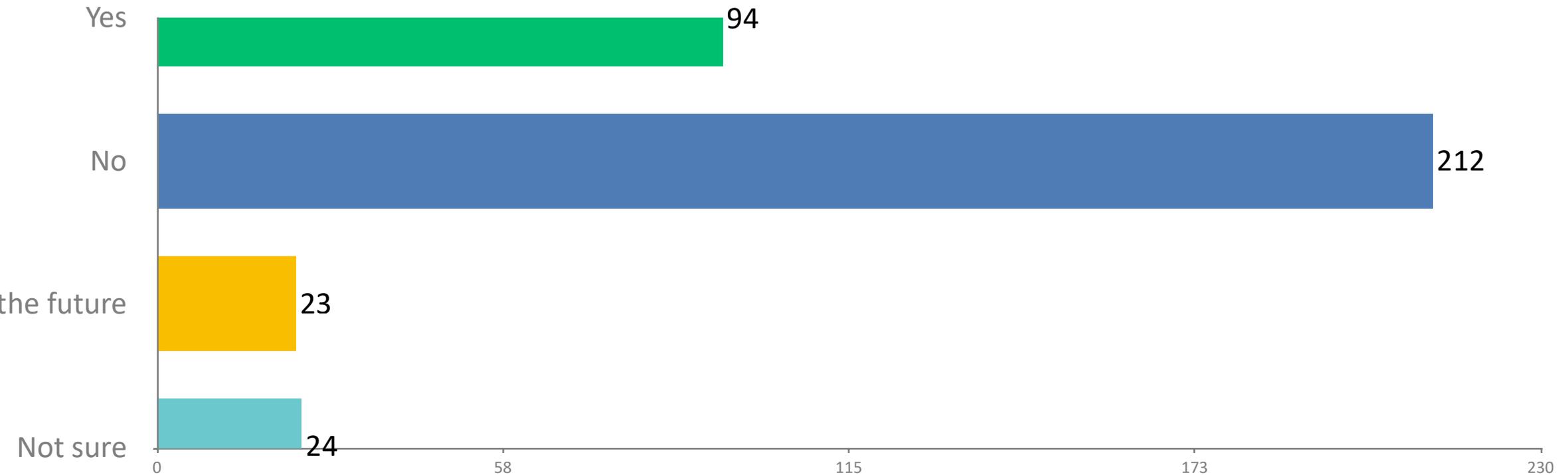
Answered: 443



# 60% of respondents do not use a weather-based irrigation controller

Do you currently use a weather-based irrigation controller for your landscape watering?

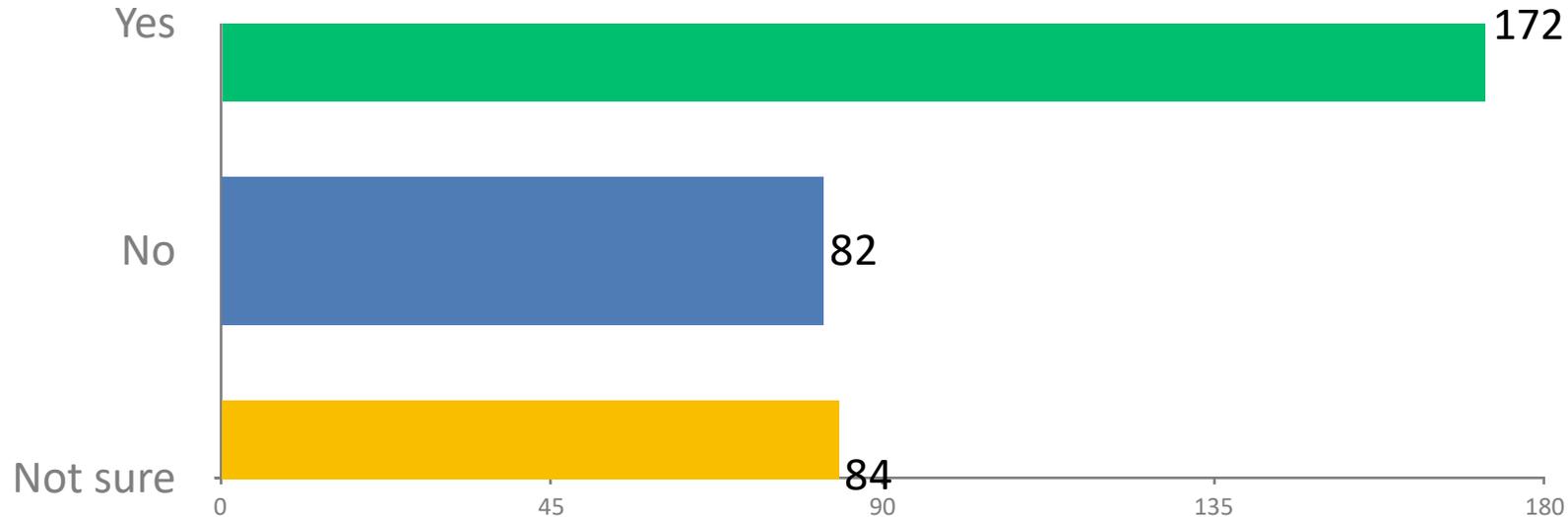
Answered: 353



# 51% of respondents are willing to switch to a weather-based irrigation controller

**Would you consider adopting a weather-based irrigation controller if it provided greater flexibility in your watering schedule?**

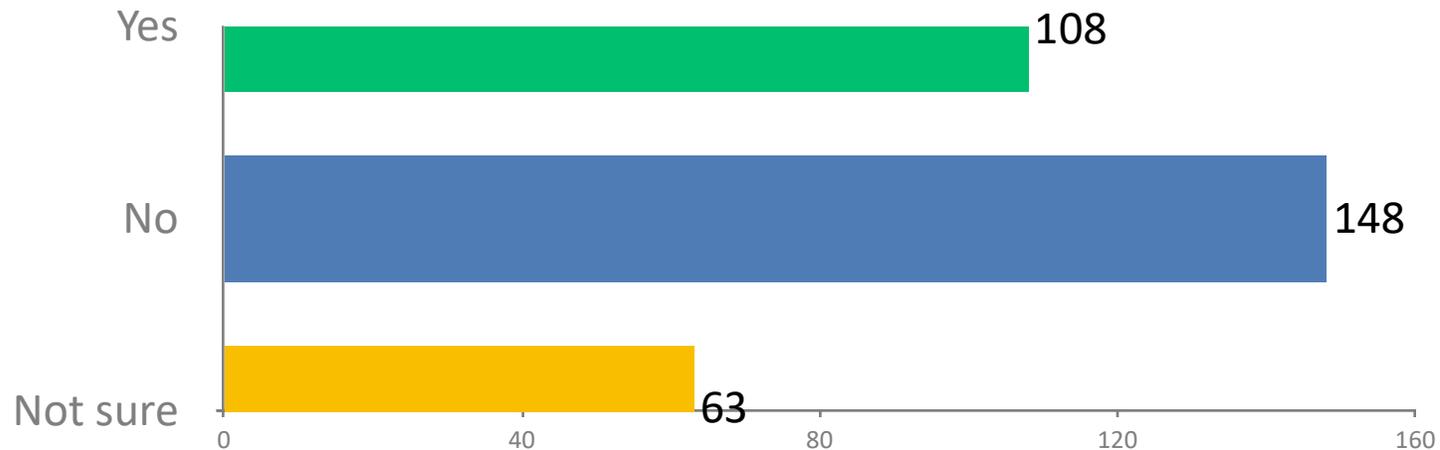
Answered: 338



# More education is needed to promote cycle and soak method of watering

Do you utilize the Cycle and Soak method of lawn watering? Cycle and soak is a method of irrigation where water is applied in multiple, short cycles. This allows the water to be applied more slowly, allowed to soak into the soil, and prevents run off, promoting deeper roots and healthier plants while reducing overall water usage.

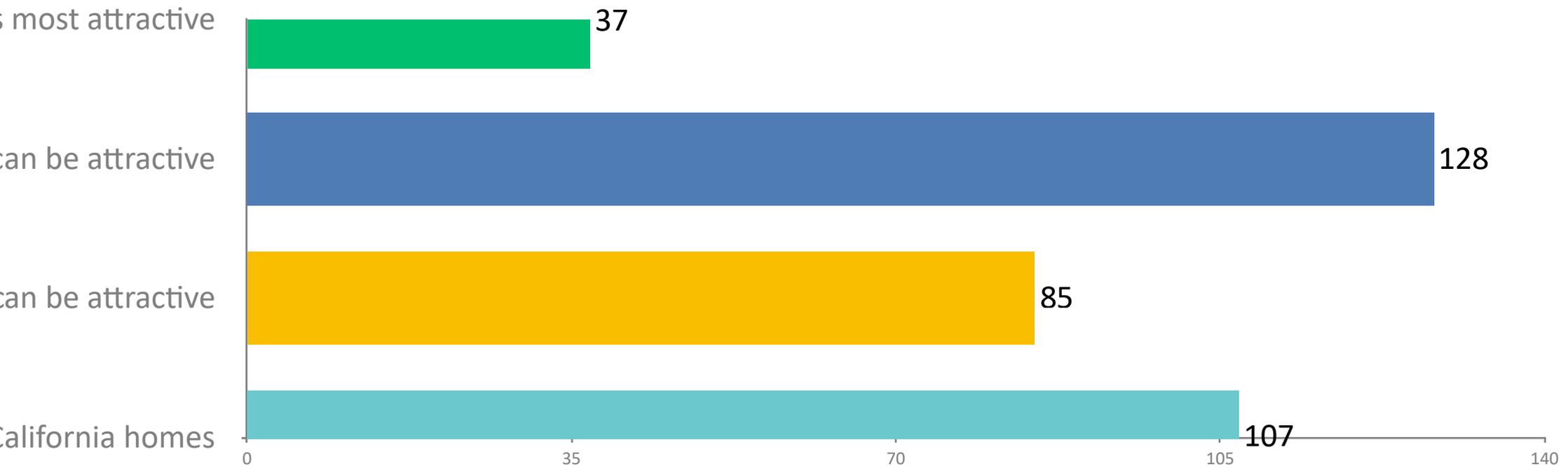
Answered: 319



# 90% of respondents believe some native landscaping mixed with a traditional lawn can be attractive

Do you consider yards with 100% native landscaping unattractive versus a traditional lawn? (Select one answer)

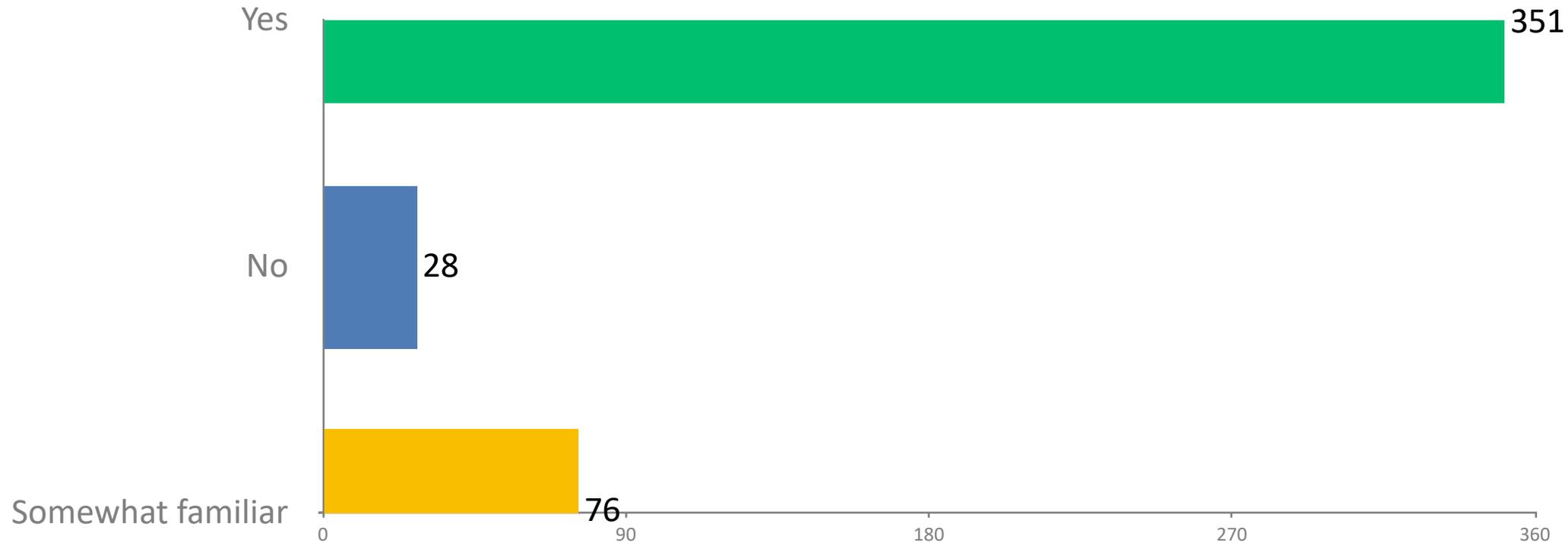
Answered: 357



# Most respondents are aware of the watering schedule in Burbank

Are you aware of the current watering restrictions in Burbank?

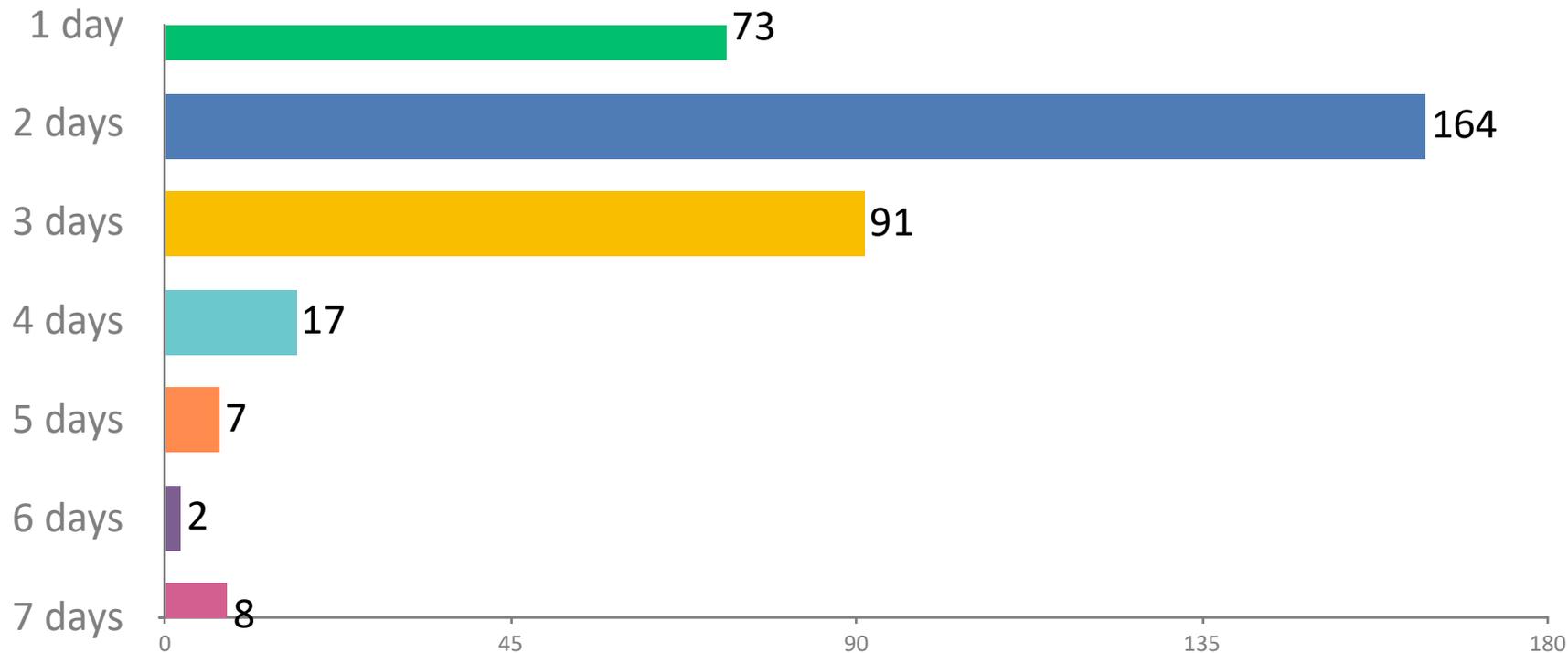
Answered: 455



# 45% of respondents agree with watering twice a week in current conditions

How many days per week do you think is appropriate for residents to water in current conditions?

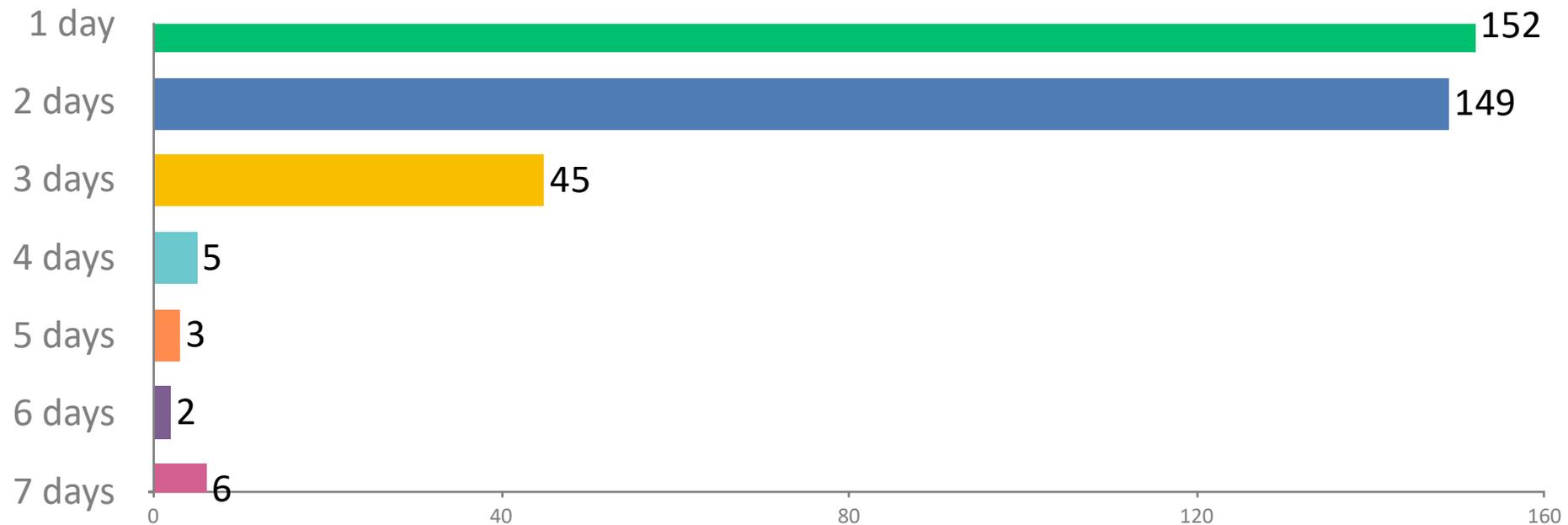
Answered: 362



# 42% of respondents believe that the lawn watering should decrease to 1 day a week during extreme drought conditions

How many days per week do you think is appropriate for residents to water during drought conditions?

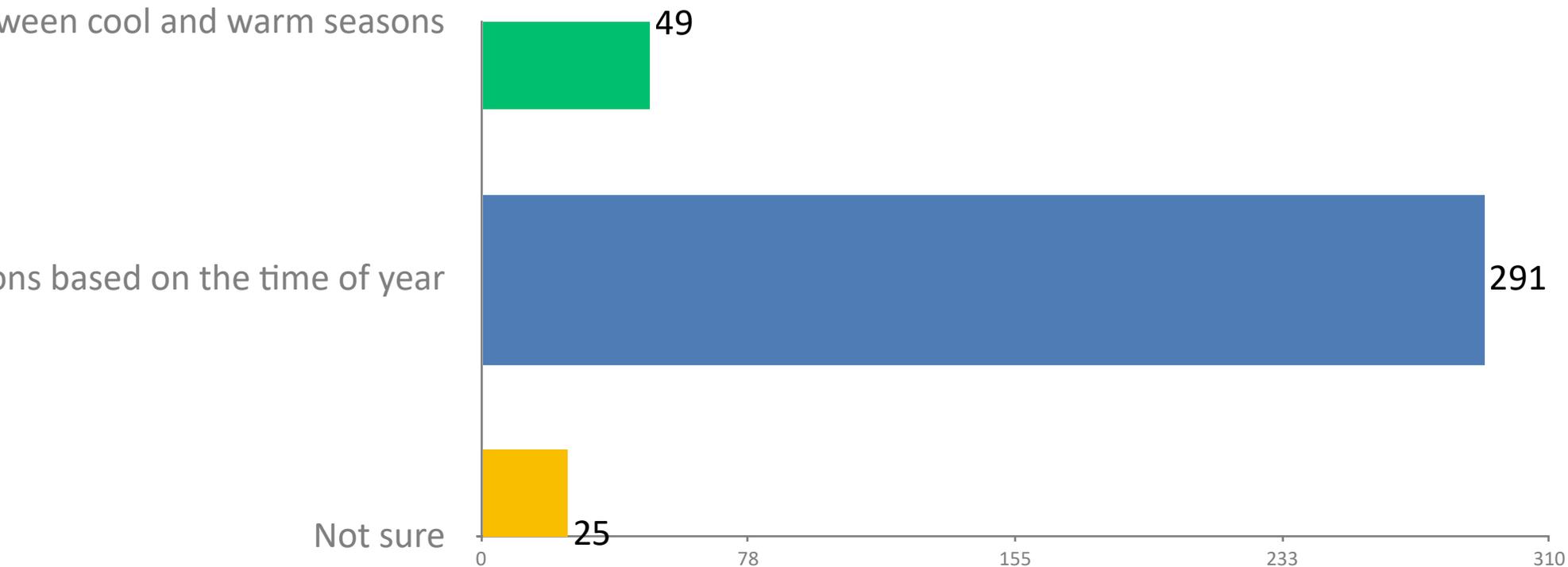
Answered: 362



# Most respondents support the seasonal change in watering restrictions

Do you support consistent watering schedules year-round or different watering restrictions based on time of year?

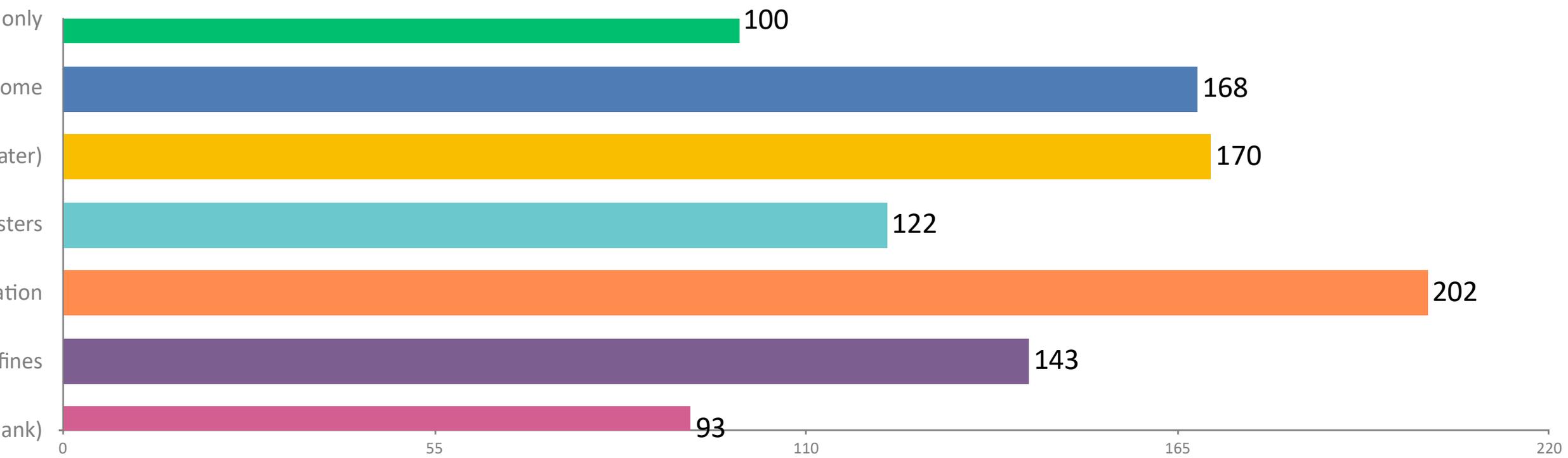
Answered: 365



# Most respondents suggest that pool covers should be enforced during drought conditions

What specific measures or restrictions do you believe should be enforced during severe drought conditions?

Answered: 348



# Recommendations to update SWUO

- Time of watering: No watering from 8 am - 7 pm
- Duration of watering: 10 minutes
- Add cycle and soak method: Multiple start times
- More flexibility for installing Weather-based irrigation controllers and Soil moisture sensors



# Recommendations to update SWUO

- Add a time limit to fix leaks - 72 hours
- Change the names of current stages to alphabets
- A section of permanent water conservation requirements
- Moving pool covers to lower stages



# Recommendations to update SWUO

Special condition waiver –  
Self certify

- Maintenance of edible vegetation, including fruit trees and shrubs, intended for consumption
- Properties with a designation that helps with wildlife habitat
- Installation of WBIC and Soil moisture sensors
- Planting new trees and plants



# Water saving tips



- Plant California native species
- Replace traditional sprinklers with drip irrigation, bubblers, or rotary nozzles
- Separate watering pattern for each species in your lawn (grass, plants, trees)
- Use low-water use grass or ground covers
- Focus on soil health: Use compost or mulch
- Deep watering less frequently is more beneficial for the roots.

# Timeline to Update the Ordinance

First community meeting	Jan 24, 2024
Community Survey launch	Feb 2, 2024
Sustainable Burbank Commission	Feb 12, 2024
Second community meeting	Feb 20, 2024
Third community meeting	Mar 27, 2024

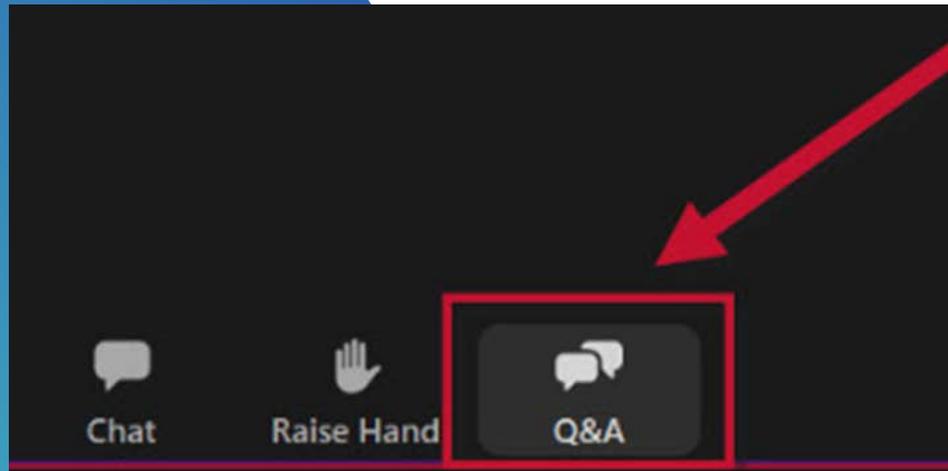
# Timeline to Update the Ordinance

BWP Board approval	May
City Council approval	June
New ordinance effective	July

# Community Input



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# Questions & Feedback

Richard Wilson, Assistant General  
Manager, Water Systems

Drew Johnstone, Sustainability Officer

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