



# Regulatory Precipitation Rate Limits

Water Saver or Waster?

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The Intelligent Use of Water.™

# Do You Like Chocolate?

- **Tastes Great!**
- **Makes Me Happy**
- **Easy to Find**
- **Inexpensive**



# Chocolate For Every Meal?

- **Doesn't taste THAT great!**
- **Makes me sick now.**
- **Makes me fatter.**
- **I hate Chocolate!**



# What is Precipitation Rate?

▪ **PR =**

**GPM X 96.3**

**Head Spacing X Row Spacing**

▪ **Rate at which irrigation applies water to the landscape**



# Is Low PR Good or Bad?

- That is not the Question!
- Good Sometimes
- Not Good Others
- Real Question:

All the Time

Or Not?



# What Is ‘Good’ About It? (Regulator POV)

- More Closely Matches the Soak-In Rate
- Reduces Runoff
- Easier to Inspect/Plan Check
- Forces the “Right” Behavior



# What Is Not Good? (Real World POV)

- **University of Arizona**

- Wind Drift & Evaporation Losses

- **California State Polytechnic University - Pomona**

- 2/3 of Total Losses
- No Runoff With Cycle+Soak



# Should Low Precipitation Rate be Required ... At All Times?

- **Some Regulators Want This!**
- **Believe It Saves Water!**
- **Don't See the Potential Water Losses**





# Does It Save Water?

Show Me The Science!

- **California State Polytechnic University – Pomona**
  - 2/3 of Loss = Wind Drift & Evaporation;
  - No Run-off with Cycle+Soak Programming
- **Eugene Water and Electric Board**
  - No Savings
- **Inland Empire Utilities Agency**
  - 2% Greater Water Use
- **Municipal Water District of Orange County**
  - 10% Savings
- **Southern Nevada Water Authority**
  - No Savings
- **University of Arizona**
  - 12% More Wind Drift & Evaporation Loss With Low PR



# Conclusions

- **Reduces Some Runoff**
- **Can be Wasteful**
- **Does Not Reduce Water Use**
- **MSMT May Mitigate Some Losses**
- **Don't Ban More Efficient Products**



# Conclusions

- **Like Chocolate, Low PRs Are Good in Moderation**
- **Low PRs Should Not Be Required by Law**
- **Industry Should Oppose PR Limit Regulation**





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