

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

The Cachuma Resource Conservation District provides **free** irrigation evaluations for growers, to evaluate irrigation systems and make recommendations to improve performance.

Participation in this program is voluntary and all evaluation results are confidential.



Irrigation efficiency can save you water, energy, and money. By applying the proper amount of water, you could:

- *Improve crop quality*
- *Increase production*
- *Lower energy costs*
- *Reduce water usage and loss*
- *Lower pesticide costs*
- *Reduce pollution and runoff*
- *Decrease leaching of plant nutrients*

Free, voluntary, confidential evaluation: improve your irrigation efficiency!

IRRIGATION SYSTEM EVALUATIONS

FOR AGRICULTURAL WATER USERS



Providing a tool to improve irrigation efficiency in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties

Cachuma Resource Conservation District
Santa Barbara County Water Agency
US Bureau of Reclamation

Cachuma Resource
Conservation District
USDA Service Center
920 East Stowell Rd.
Santa Maria, CA
93454

ABOUT THE PROGRAM



Free on-site Mobile Lab services are available to Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County growers. Over 800 evaluations have been performed on over 70,000 acres.

To schedule an irrigation evaluation, call the Cachuma Resource Conservation District at (805) 928-9269, x. 106.



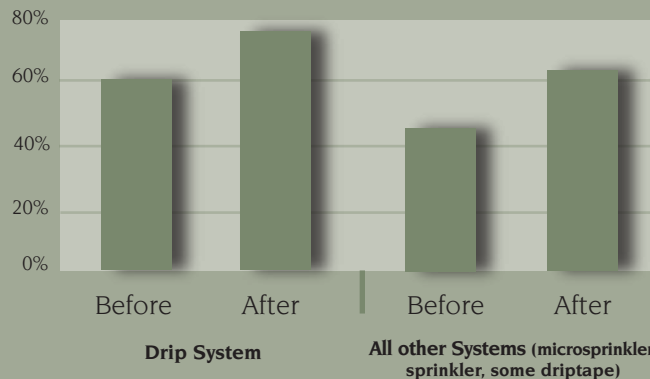
The Mobile Irrigation Lab is staffed by trained professionals from the Cachuma Resource Conservation District (RCD). Irrigation evaluations use standard procedures developed by California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo and the California Department of Water Resources.

THE EVALUATION

The Mobile Irrigation Lab comes right to your field. All you need to provide, if available, is a layout of your irrigation system and information on your irrigation schedule. **We provide:**

- *Distribution Uniformity (DU)*: Evaluation of water distribution with a focus on uniformity and rate of application. Uniformity will increase irrigation efficiency.
- *General Survey*: Estimate of seasonal evapotranspiration, effective rainfall, leaching, and irrigation water requirements for an average season.
- *Energy Efficiency*: Evaluation of pumping plant efficiency related to the system design and operation.
- *Water Quality*: Measurements of pH, electrical conductivity, and nitrate (plus hardness and iron in micro-irrigation systems) that allow calculations of total dissolved solids (TDS) and leaching fraction in irrigation water.

DISTRIBUTION UNIFORMITY BY IRRIGATION SYSTEM: BEFORE AND AFTER SYSTEM EVALUATIONS



Improvements shown indicate implementation of one or more recommendations

FOLLOW UP



After the evaluation, you will receive our observations and recommendations on system design, operation, and maintenance. The evaluation also provides site specific irrigation scheduling recommendations. Detailed information on the use of the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) is available on request.

Interviews are conducted with each participant to discuss evaluation results and provide an opportunity for feedback. Engineering assistance is also offered to facilitate the implementation of recommended practices.

