

# WATER USAGE FOR SUBDIVISIONS – DOMESTIC AND IRRIGATION

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# DOMESTIC AND LAWN IRRIGATION WATER RATES USED IN DEQ SUBDIVISION REVIEW

- Average in-house diversion is 200 gpd/home.
  - = 0.22 acre-feet per year
  - much of this is non-consumptive
- Average lawn irrigation diversion is 1.5 inches week
  - = 1 gpm per  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre (average over entire irrigation season)
  - = 0.55 acre-feet per year of diversion (18 week irrigation season)
  - *1 acre-feet = 325,851 gallons*

# WATER BUDGET MYTH

- Water budgets compare proposed use to sustainable recharge from the aquifer:
- *The water budget will emphasize an important point – defining sustainable yield of an aquifer system can no longer be limited to just ground water. Both ground water and surface water systems must be considered...*” (Maimone, 2004, Ground Water)
- *“...depletion of a small part of the total volume of water in storage (in some cases, only a few percent) can have substantial effects on land subsidence and reduced availability of surface water for use by humans or riparian and aquatic ecosystems.”* (Alley, 2007, Ground Water)
- *“Often streams are depleted long before the pumping reaches the magnitude of the [sustainable] recharge.”* (Bredehoeft, 1997, Ground Water)

# WATER BUDGET MYTH

