WeatherTRAK Public Agency Studies/Programs

WeatherTRAK has been a part of more statistical studies than all other new ET or Weather-based products combined. The list below shows studies and a few programs in progress using the WeatherTRAK "smart" controller technology:

1. Colorado St. University / Colorado Nursery Growers conducted a Crop Coefficient test on annuals using WeatherTRAK to deliver different levels of water (100% of ET, 75% of ET, 50% of ET, 25% of ET). The results indicated that annuals can look and perform well on less water than even growers believed. Implications are that drought restrictions on planting annuals could be revised. WeatherTRAK is the only controller that can automatically deliver ET or some percentage of ET as was required for this study. (Contact: Jim Klett of CSU, Al Gerace, Welby Gardens)

2. University of Nevada Reno conducted a 2-year study on the differences of scheduling between (1) University experts, (2) on-site landscaper and (3) WeatherTRAK. Daily University adjustments won (but obviously would be costly and impossible to replicate in the real world. On-site landscaper lost, applying 30% more water than WeatherTRAK, costing 27% more in water bills. (Contact: Bill Carlos, UNR Extension.)

3. Irvine Ranch Water District / Metropolitan Water District study with 40 homes in Irvine,1998-2000. The first study of any "ET Controller" product. Findings include 37 gallons per day average savings; 97% customer satisfaction on product convenience; 97% reported improved landscape appearance; 85% of the potential water was saved as measured by the statistical analysis. (Source: Irvine Ranch Water District; go to www.irwd.com to view study report)

4. Irvine Ranch Water District / US EPA / California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation $1 million study with 114 homes and 26 commercial sites in a single micro-watershed in Irvine. The focus was on reducing urban runoff with precise irrigation control (WeatherTRAK). Findings include 64%-71% runoff reduction measured in the test neighborhood; 42 gallons per day average savings in homes, 475 gallons per day average savings from commercial sites; high customer satisfaction with landscape appearance. (Source: Irvine Ranch Water District; view executive summary at www.irwd.com)

5. Park City, Utah / Utah Dept. Water Resources conducting 2-year test of reducing "peaking" problems in summer months in the city. The city installed WeatherTRAK units in 35 high use homes. The results show a reduction of 2.3 million gallons in the first growing season (5 months) across the homes. This has a significant benefit to the "peaking" problem facing the city. (Contact: Kyle McArthur, Park City.)

6. Lake Arrowhead Community Services District set to install 78 WeatherTRAK units as part of a USBR grant. The goal is to reduce over-water use in the drought stricken region on home landscapes. Installation to begin 3/25/04. Detailed water use/water savings will be conducted by the water provider. (Contact: Mark Lippert, Lake Arrowhead Community Services District).

7. University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) with Southern Nevada Water Authority is undertaking a study to determine if reduced water applications leads to salt build-up in the soil. They are using WeatherTRAK units to apply proper water applications into home landscapes and will be measuring the soil salts (EC levels) over time. (Contact: Dr. Dale Devitt, UNLV).

8. University of Arizona (Tucson) will begin a late spring study of 3 products (a soil moisture sensor, WeatherTRAK and a third unknown product) on 3 different sizes / types of home landscapes. There will be 27 total sites in the study. Study to begin late spring. (Contact: Christina Bickelmann, Az. Dept. of Water Resources)

9. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California conducting a "bench test" of 3 products on 3 different types of "virtual landscapes". Official results due soon. (Note: *Preliminary information suggests WT out- performed the other products by applying water at a consistent water budget level for the types of virtual landscapes tested.* (Contact: John Wiedmann)

10. Santa Clara Valley Water District 250 units, vendor installation and self installs. Two controller products are being offered, one is WeatherTRAK. No data as of this date. (Contact: Jerry de la Pedra)

11. Soquel Water District installing WeatherTRAK units at high water use homes requesting help to lower water bills. (Contact: Roy Sikes)

12. Marin Water District installed WeatherTRAK controllers into 6 homes and 2 park sites. Landscape appearance and quality improved and study participants recommended WT to neighbors. The test of products led to the approval of an ET controller rebate program. (Contact: Marin Water Conservation Dept.)

13. AquaCraft (Boulder, Colorado) installed WeatherTRAK units in homes during an average year of moisture to find significant savings (up to 59%). Test extended into a drought year with city landscape restrictions. The WeatherTRAK units applied an average of 53% of ET, exceeding the drought restrictions set by the community while maintaining an acceptable landscape health and appearance. (Source: AquaCraft, www.aquacraft.com)

14. LADWP / Honeywell 500 Unit installation. This is a turn-key program where Honeywell (agency vendor) is contacting customers from a group identified by LADWP, setting up a schedule, site audit and installing the WeatherTRAK

controller. Honeywell developed a comprehensive installer training program, methods for auditing and installations. 3 teams of 2 installers have installed 100 units in the first 4 weeks. They are on schedule to finish the installs in mid-May. Honeywell will also monitor and report water use over the 2 year project period. (Contact: Tom Gackstetter, LADWP)

Notes on program to date (3/22/03)

a. *Honeywell is ecstatic with the customer response (customers like the WT technology)*
b. *3-4 referrals to neighbors and friends each day from test participants*
c. *no "declines" of the WT unit when told of signal fee 3 years from now*
d. *high use sites (large home landscapes) that should return significant savings when monitoring is evaluated*

15. Santa Barbara County, City of Santa Barbara, City of Goleta conducting 200 unit on-going installation program with high customer satisfaction and consistent savings results (average of 26%). (Contact: Rory Lang SB Co., Allison Jordan City of SB, Misty Gonzales City of Goleta)

16. Hydropoint has been contacted by (1) New Mexico St. University and (2) Texas A&M University to be part of studies those entities are considering on landscape water use.

17. **California water agencies rebate grant program to begin in June (approximately $3.4 million in funds for ET controller distribution/installation. WeatherTRAK controller studies at the Irvine Ranch Water District were the foundation for the determination of water savings and grant award** (grant award open to all products chosen at the discretion of the local water providers).

18. **MWDOC received a $1.5 million grant from the USBR to distribute "smart" controllers in key watershed / runoff locations in OC. Grant was based on the IRWD Runoff Reduction study results of 64%-71% neighborhood runoff reduction. Program to begin in late 2004**

Training is available on WeatherTRAK "smart" controllers to local landscape contractors and water agencies. In 1.5 hours contractors receive complete hands-on training on installation, data (ET) activation, input of the site information for WT scheduling engine, seeing irrigation schedules change as ET data is received. (To schedule a training session for contractors in your area, contact Sharon Connelly, HydroPoint, 1-800.362.8774)