

# ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING



## PATRICK PICARD, PRESIDENT

Equinox Landscape, an award-winning leader in ecological landscaping, utilizes sustainable design principles, permaculture techniques and organic gardening methods. We design, build and maintain beautiful, contemporary gardens throughout the North Bay. Our gardens go beyond sustainable; they are regenerative. Celebrating 30 years, we're launching our new water conservation division, Equinox H2O.

### The drought seems so overwhelming. What can we actually do about it?

No doubt, climate change is reducing seasonal rainfall. But the real question is how are we managing the water that does fall? Is our land fertile enough to absorb the rain? Are we catching and storing rain for irrigation and wildfire preparedness? Are we reusing household water for the garden? For 30 years Equinox has addressed these questions, and it's why we developed a new business division wholly dedicated to water conservation.

### Your slogan "Conserving Every Sacred Drop" is intriguing. Can you say more?

Water is the life-giving element. Without water, there is no life. Therefore, it is sacred. Equinox started off as an irrigation company and even back in 1992 we were applying the most advanced technology to conserve water.

### What's the best way to save water in my landscape?

First, get an annual irrigation audit to ensure your system is working properly, and install a smart, satellite-controlled timer to water your garden optimally. Second, install a

laundry-to-landscape greywater irrigation system. It's a simple way to water your garden with a steady supply of recycled household water.

### How can I prepare my property for wildfires?

While there is no completely fireproof vegetation, there are many good fire resistant plants. These, combined with vegetation setbacks, defensible space and well-placed hardscaping, all help with preparedness. If you live in the wildland-urban interface zone, consider a rainwater catchment system for on-site emergency water storage. We recommend at least 3,000-5,000 gallons, stored in above- or below-ground tanks, or vegetated ponds.

### Can I still have a beautiful garden during a drought?

Absolutely. Plants native to Northern California and other Mediterranean climates are naturally adapted to our seasonally dry conditions. Colorful, multi-textured, drought-resilient native grasses, lilacs, poppies, manzanitas and others can replace some or all of your thirsty turf lawn. Combined with smart irrigation, rainwater collection and laundry-to-landscape greywater reuse, you can have a beautiful garden, and water it too.

