



# EMPOWER | INNOVATION | CHAMPIONS 2014 INNOVATION FAIR

## DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE

### **Challenge:** Reduce water consumption during prolonged drought **Innovation:** Smart Irrigation Controllers

Smart irrigation controllers reduce overall water usage by an average of 25% by tailoring watering schedules and run times based on current weather conditions, site conditions, and other landscape needs. This helps Caltrans achieve the Governor's goal of 20% water usage reduction by 2020 (Executive Order B-18-12) and Director Dougherty's goal of reducing Caltrans' water usage by 50%.

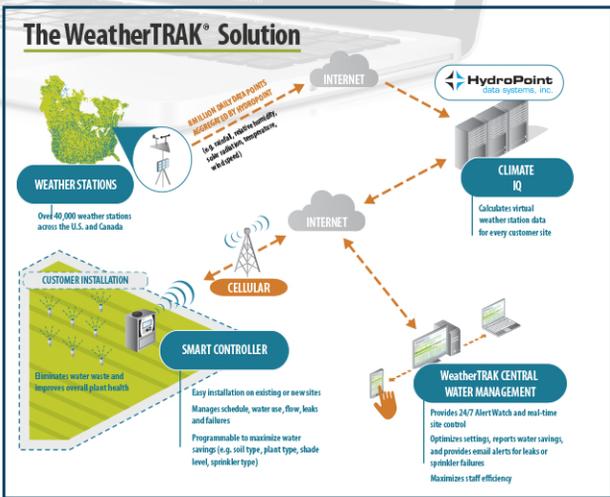
**Safety to Employees:** Minimizes on-site operations and time spent in the field. The controller system provides alerts to staff including locations and type of problem.



Image Courtesy of Olle Ealy, Caltrans District 4

Sr. Landscape Architect Lorena Wong, Landscape Associate Lori Richardson, and Hydropoint Personnel programming smart controllers in San Jose.

**Cost and Time:** The service has a minimal ongoing subscription fee, which is offset by reduced water bills. Timely repairs of broken irrigation systems due to automatic alerts also reduce costs of replacement plantings and repairing other incidental damage. No IT infrastructure or software is required, only internet access via computers, laptops, or smart phones.



Bottom Left: Image of WeatherTrak ET Pro 3 | Image courtesy of Hydropoint Data Systems, Inc.