



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

December 11, 2015

Ms. Julie Saare-Edmonds, Senior Environmental Scientist and ITP Project Manager  
Department of Water Resources - Water Use and Efficiency  
Landscape & Green Building Programs  
Julie.Saare-Edmonds@water.ca.gov

RE: Independent Technical Panel (ITP) Report to the Legislature, *California Landscape Water Use – A Framework for the Future*, including *Section 4, Voluntary Turf Replacement; Section 7, Complementary Policies and Regulations; Section 8, Landscape Industry Workforce Needs and Opportunities, Recommendations, and Section 9, Public Perceptions and Social Norms, Recommendation #1: Defining Professionals, recognition of examples of low water use landscapes and a sustainable statewide approach to outreach and information.*

Dear Ms. Saare-Edmonds:

The California Council, American Society of Landscape Architects (CCASLA) respectfully submits the following comments, suggestions, and recommendations regarding the ITP's Report to the Legislature, *California Landscape Water Use – A Framework for the Future*.

CCASLA and the landscape architecture profession continue to firmly support the work of the Panel. As previously expressed to the Panel, we feel strongly that the targeted goals of achieving water savings in the landscape will be best served through public education and the delivery of professional services to consumers. The Panel's recommendations for a statewide approach to outreach and information dissemination will best serve the consuming public.

As many of the Panel's recommendations will include an expansion of the responsibilities surrounding inspection and enforcement, close cooperation with the State's various agencies to ascertain the criteria setting minimum standards will remain critical. CCASLA only asks that the ITP's recommendations include the recognition that it is vitally important that DCA continue serving in the primary role of defining professional competency and defining all necessary consumer protections when assessing services provide by the landscape industry.

Section 4, Proposal, Program requirements, Bullet 5: We recommend changing the word "Pavers" to "Paving." This should help clarify the intention to encourage the use of permeable, pervious, or porous design elements (paving) rather than denoting that individual pavers must

meet those characteristics. This will help provide maximum flexibility in the design, installation, and maintenance of water conserving landscapes.

Section 7, Complementary Policies and Regulations, Recommendation #: 8 - Water Budget Performance Reporting: CCASLA supports this recommendation in concept, feeling it provides a more reliable methodology for addressing long-term water conservation in the landscape. This methodology will provide greater flexibility in addressing regional and local conditions when setting water consumption restrictions. Measuring water conservation will improve with the continuous integration of future technical advances in the monitoring of existing landscapes and provide more reliable feedback on water conservation initiatives.

Section 8, Landscape Industry Workforce Needs and Opportunities, Recommendations; and Section 9, Public Perceptions and Social Norms, Recommendation #1: Defining Professionals, recognition of examples of low water use landscapes and a sustainable statewide approach to outreach and information: As previously expressed, CCASLA fully supports the Panel's recommendation to convene various stakeholders to assist in the development of specific actions furthering consumer education and establishing criteria for the delivery of water conservation services. We look forward to participation in these stakeholder meetings and helping achieve sustainable urban landscapes throughout California.

Please feel free to contact me at (619) 916-6956 should you have any questions or wish to discuss CCASLA's thoughts on these matters.

Sincerely,



Jon Wreschinsky, PLA, ASLA  
Government Affairs Liaison, CCASLA