

# Independent Technical Panel on Demand Management Measures

October 1, 2015

## Workforce Challenges and Opportunities



California Council of the  
American Society of Landscape  
Architects

# CCASLA - Agenda

- Organization Background
- Key Questions
- Approach to Landscape Water Conservation
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Recommendations

# CCASLA - Organization Background

- **Mission** – To lead, to educate, and to participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning and artful design of our cultural and natural environments
- **Purpose** – To advance the profession of Landscape Architecture in the State of California in service to the public health, safety, & welfare (HSW) and to serve as the primary legislative advocacy organization for the four California Chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects: Northern- & Southern California, San Diego, and Sierra
- The California Council, ASLA represents over 1,600 ASLA members, many who are California-licensed Landscape Architects
- Overall, there are 3,514 individuals that are licensed Landscape Architects in the State of California (as of August 2015)



# CCASLA – Key Questions

- How to **balance** the need to maintain healthy landscapes for their ecological and aesthetic benefits with the **goals and objectives** of *conserving water in the landscape*
- How to meet **consumer needs** for pertinent information and design services while continuing to **protect the public health, safety, & welfare**—*the Workforce Issue*
- How to effectively address **discrepancies** between competing regulatory language/requirements
- How to best **educate** professional practitioners and agency- & municipal personnel on water conservation practices, and the **implementation and enforcement** of updated water conservation regulations

# CCASLA – Approach to Landscape Water Conservation

- Promote a California-centric, climate-appropriate landscape aesthetic – A New Norm
- Promote integrative site design as a framework for increasing the quality of the built environment—*maximizing existing natural systems to minimize water use*
  - Protect and restore existing hydrologic functions
  - Manage and clean water on site
  - Reduce outdoor water use
  - Design stormwater features to needs of site users

# CCASLA – Approach to Landscape Water Conservation

- Advocate for properly educated, trained, & experienced practitioners/service providers
- Work with other disciplines to ensure the appropriate concepts are followed from the design stage, through implementation, and long-term maintenance of the project
- Appropriate use of design practices and landscape technologies to help ensure the design intent results in the realization of water savings throughout the life of the project/site

# CCASLA – Workforce Challenges

- What design and installation services are primarily addressed in the MWELC regulation?—*We believe that this primarily involves planting and irrigation, both readily available to California consumers*
- Who is qualified to provide these services?—*Current law does not preclude any properly educated, trained and professionally licensed/certificated individual from providing these services to the public. The public also has access to a plethora of readily available information via a number of sources to address landscape water conservation issues for their own self-help projects*
- Is there a shortage of practitioners to provide design and installation services to the public?—*There is no apparent shortage of qualified practitioners to meet the current demand for design and installation services. As discussed above, the public's need for information and assistance continues to be met with the ever-growing availability of subject matter information. Public education and other assistance programs provided by agencies and municipalities is designed to assist homeowners and other property owners with their landscape water conservation needs.*

# CCASLA – Other Current Challenges

## **Internal to Organization**

- Client preferences and lack of consensus on the appropriate approach to achieving water conservation goals and objectives

## **External to Organization**

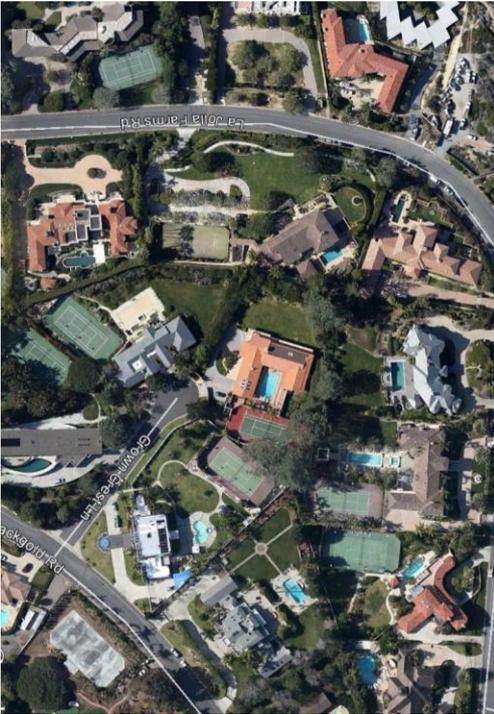
- Inconsistencies among municipalities regarding water conservation design regulations, tracking (metering), and enforcement—including no link to the water budget-based calculations required under the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance
- Inconsistent maintenance and care of existing landscapes

# CCASLA – Other Current Challenges

## **External to Organization (Continued)**

- General misconceptions regarding the availability of, qualifications, and roles the design/maintenance professions play in landscape issues
- Lack of scientific data regarding plant water use requirements
- Acres of existing, outdated landscapes and the long Return on Investment to retrofit/replace
- Lack of coordination between local Regional Water Quality Control Boards water quality and hydro-modification goals, and stormwater capture for irrigation

# CCASLA - Anticipated Challenges



La Jolla, CA



Southeast San Diego, CA

- Socioeconomic impacts of water costs. How can economically depressed communities afford the health and well being benefits of landscape?

# CCASLA - Anticipated Challenges

## **External to Organization**

- Climate change and the duration/severity of droughts
  - The value of landscape
  - Pressures on groundwater reserves
  - Associated greenhouse gas issues
  - Impacts on economy including agriculture
- Future uncertainty of water rights litigation
- Future uncertainty of water distribution agreements

# CCASLA - Current Opportunities

- Expand continuing education to members, allied practitioners, and the public
- Promote the use of rating systems such as The Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™) v2 Rating System as a model to qualify and quantify benchmarks in addressing holistic design goals and objectives
- Support upgrades to MWELO, WUCOLS, etc.
- Offer expertise and leadership at all agency and municipal levels throughout the State
- Encourage inter-agency dialogue regarding rectification of regulatory conflicts/discrepancies and the public HSW

# CCASLA - Recommendations

- Encourage all agencies (DWR) to work directly with the Department of Consumer Affairs to address the issue of minimum professional competency in regards to the protection of public HSW
- Support public education programs including addressing key sustainability and regenerative issues in professional licensure/certification measures
- Monitor state-wide implementation of updated MWELO and identify enforcement issues. Tailor future updates to improve compliancy
- Develop implementation guidelines for municipalities and water agencies
- Concentrate enforcement on existing landscape irrigation installations

# CCASLA - Recommendations

- Emphasize on-going monitoring to include non-irrigation factors, i.e. soil conditions, drainage, planting conditions (tree health), landscape regeneration, etc.
- Initiate a water budget-based billing for landscape meters throughout California that uses the metrics under the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance
- Develop standards and incentives for private water reclamation infrastructure. Streamline approval processes
- Align Regional Water Quality Control Boards with stormwater capture and re-use

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Thank you for this collaborative opportunity



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