

PROPOSAL PAPER

Independent Technical Panel on Demand Management Measures Final Report on California Landscape Water Use *11-03-15 Draft*

Section: 8 *(From the current draft outline)*

Section Title: Landscape Industry Workforce Needs and Opportunities

Authoring Team: Lisa Maddaus and _____

Background:

More than half of our urban water demand in California is for outdoor water use. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 13.9 million households existing in California with more than 55% owned and 31% in multi-unit structures. The vast majority of these homes have landscaped area on irrigated by potable water supplies. The California Department of Finance, Household Projections Report, P-4, estimates another 2 million homes planned to be constructed in the next 15 years. (<http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/projections/view.php>) Each of these homes with landscaped area will need to conform to the California Model Landscape Ordinance or local equivalent codes. Overall, the need for professional services to help design, construct and maintain our landscapes continues to expansion through new and conversion of our existing landscapes, especially in the wake of our ongoing epic drought conditions.

Every property owner, professional and worker that designs, constructs, maintains or regulates landscapes that use supplemental irrigation has a duty to ensure that that applied water is used most efficiently. The ITP understands that there has been significant effort into training the workforce and residents alike and that there is more work to be done.

There are the following primary areas of workforce opportunities and challenges that need to be overcome as we convert our prominently turf based communities into more water efficient landscapes:

- Provide a mechanism for DWR to review curriculum for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) including training on MWEL0
- Provide up to date information and training for landscape professionals, including requiring CEUs with oversight by Department of Consumer Affairs or another authorized agency (could be third party NGO like California Urban Water Conservation Council similar to how American Water Works Association, California Nevada Section provides training CEUs for the Department of Public Health for drinking water systems).
- Maintain and/or create new standards of accreditation by the Department of Consumer Affairs including “apprentice approach” for gaining access to accreditation for:
 - Landscape architects;
 - Irrigation consultants; and
 - Landscape designers.

- Support state funding and locally hosted landscape training provided to residential and commercial property owners, and landscape maintenance companies and staff.

Recommendation Purpose Statement:

- Require CEUs for accredited professionals
- Statewide clearinghouse and promotions of WaterSense certified programs
 - QWEL
 - G3 Program
 - Green Gardener
 - Etc.
- Find appropriate state agency to resolve the issues of landscape professionals and designers such that skills are leveraged to the greater good

Recommendation:

- *Statutory Recommendation –*
- *Specific Guidance Recommendation –*
- *General Guidance Recommendation –*