



News for Immediate Release

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Contacts:

Simon Eching, Chief, Urban Water Use Efficiency

(916) 651-9667

Eric Alvarez, Public Information Officer

(916) 653-3925

DWR Issues Updated Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released an updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Model Ordinance) to assist local governments in reducing water waste in landscapes.

A Landscape Task Force recommended changes to the original ordinance adopted in 1992. The result is the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 1881, Laird), which requires cities and counties, including charter cities, to adopt landscape water conservation ordinances by January 1, 2010. Pursuant to this law, DWR prepared the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance for use by these local agencies should they choose.

“On average, statewide, landscape irrigation accounts for half of all urban water use,” said Gwen Huff, DWR Associate Land and Water Use Scientist. “Implementing a water efficient landscape ordinance will assist local agencies in meeting their goals of stretching water supplies, reducing runoff, and reducing the amount of green waste generated by landscape projects.”

The Model Ordinance addresses water budgets for landscapes, the prevention of excessive erosion and irrigation runoff, landscape and irrigation design requirements, the use of recycled water where available, irrigation audits, and the scheduling of irrigation based on the local climate.

To assist local agencies in adopting and implementing either the Model Ordinance, or a local ordinance that is at least as effective as the Model, DWR plans workshops throughout the state. When finalized, the schedule will be posted on DWR’s Water Use and Efficiency Web site: <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/> .

For more information please consult the Web site listed above or contact Simon Eching, Chief, Urban Water Use Efficiency, at (916) 651-9667 or at seching@water.ca.gov .

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR’s water activities.