



Water Plan Update October 14, 2009

Updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

California Department of Water Resources

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Updated Model Ordinance

- The Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 (AB 1881- Laird) directed DWR to update the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance by January 1, 2009
- DWR adopted its ordinance on July 31, 2009 and it was approved by the Office of Administrative Law on September 10, 2009

To update the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, DWR....



- **Include provisions of AB 1881**





AB 1881 Specifies...

- **Local agencies** - all cities and counties, including charter cities and counties, to adopt and implement a water efficient landscape ordinance.

Provisions required in AB 1881



- include provisions to **minimize landscape irrigation overspray and runoff**
- include a **landscape water budget** component
- include provisions for **appropriate use and groupings of plants**
- include provisions for use of **automatic irrigation systems and irrigation schedules** based on climatic conditions
- include provisions for onsite **soil assessment and soil management plans**
- encourage the **capture and retention of storm water onsite**
- encourage the use of **recycled water**
- encourage use of **economic incentives** to promote the efficient use of water
- **educate** water users on the efficient use of water and the benefits
- address regional differences, including **fire prevention** needs
- **exempt** landscaping that is part of a registered historical site
- include provisions for **landscape maintenance practices** that foster long-term landscape water conservation
- promote benefits of **consistent local ordinances**



Purpose of the MWELO

- To **establish a structure** for designing, installing, maintaining and managing water efficient landscapes in new and rehabilitated projects
- **Reduce water use** to the lowest practical amount and set an upper limit that shall not be exceeded.
- To **establish provisions** for water management practices and water waste prevention **for established landscapes.**
- **Promote the values and benefits of landscapes** while recognizing the need to use water and other resources efficiently.



New and Rehabilitated

- Landscapes that require a building or landscape permit, plan check or design review and are:
 - 2500 sq. ft or more (landscape area)
 - public agency (parks, schools, city properties)
 - private development (retail, industrial, commercial properties)
 - developer-installed single family and multi-family (master-planned communities)
 - 5000sq ft. or more (landscape area)
 - homeowner-provided (DIY) or homeowner-hired single-family and multi-family



Existing landscapes

- Requires local agency to administer programs to existing landscapes greater than **1 acre** to **prevent water waste**:
 - metered landscapes must meet the existing landscape (prior to 1/1/2010) MAWA of 0.8 ETo
 - Un-metered landscapes **and** metered landscapes: no runoff, no overspray, efficient scheduling



Water Waste is Prohibited

- California Constitution Section 2 Article X
- All landscapes prohibited from wasting water
- Local agencies shall prohibit runoff, low head drainage and overspray.
- Penalties for violation of these prohibitions shall be established locally.





Exempt Landscapes

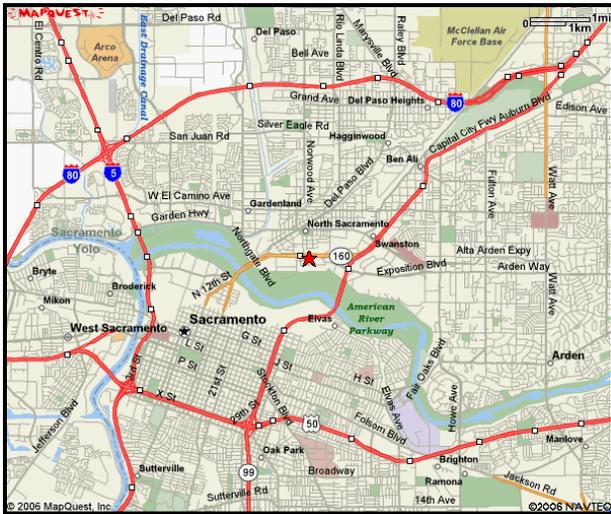
- Registered local, state or federal historical sites.
- Ecological restoration and mined-land reclamation projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system.
- Collections of botanical gardens and arboretums open to the public.



How is the ordinance enforced?

- The local agency is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance.
 - **Permit, plan check, and/or design review**
 - **Landscape Document Package**
 - Review and approval to proceed
 - **Certificate of Completion**
 - Final sign-off
 - A local agency may establish and administer **penalties for non-compliance** with the ordinance.

The Role of Water Purveyors



- The **local agency** may designate another **agency**, such as a water purveyor to assume some or all of the responsibilities of enforcing a water efficient landscape ordinance
- Must be agreed upon by all agencies involved



Local Agencies notify DWR

- Local agencies **MUST** notify DWR by January 31, 2010 that they have.....
 1. Adopted the Model Ordinance
 2. Adopted a local or regional ordinance
 1. Include findings and evidence in the records
 2. Demonstrate that local agency made reasonable effort to make its ordinance to be as effective as the MO
 3. The Model Ordinance is in effect because the agency took no other action



Report to DWR

- DWR does not approve or disapprove any ordinances



Important Dates



September 10, 2009	Updated Model Ordinance is adopted
January 1, 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Local agencies shall adopt the Model Ordinance or2. Adopt one that is at least as effective as the Model Ordinance in conserving water or3. The updated Model Ordinance will be in effect with the same force as if adopted by the local agency.
January 31, 2010	Local agencies submit notify DWR
January 31, 2011	DWR shall submit a report to the Legislature on the status of adopted ordinances by local agencies



DWR Assistance

- 8 workshops in October and November 2009
- Documents relied upon
- Instructions, educational materials, templates, forms
- CIMIS data
- Aerial Imagery
- Call center (877) 693 5610
- E-mail: mweo@water.ca.gov

Website:

www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/