

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
(916) 653-5791



OCT 08 2009

Cities and Counties:

Adoption of the Updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Your action is required to conserve water supplies and comply with State law. The Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 1881, Laird) requires cities and counties, including charter cities and charter counties, to adopt landscape water conservation ordinances by January 1, 2010. In accordance with this law, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has prepared an updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) for your use, please see Enclosure 1. Text of the updated MWELo is also posted on DWR's Water Use and Efficiency Branch website at <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/>. All local agencies (cities, counties, cities and counties, charter cities and charter counties) have until January 1, 2010, to adopt DWR's updated MWELo or their own local water efficient landscape ordinance. If a local agency has not adopted its own ordinance on or before January 1, 2010, the updated MWELo shall apply within the jurisdiction of that local agency as of that date.

DWR is working with local agencies and governments to conduct outreach activities including workshops to assist implementation of water efficient landscape ordinances. For October and November workshops, please see Enclosure 2. For questions on the updated MWELo and information on DWR's outreach activities, please e-mail [mweo@water.ca.gov](mailto:mweo@water.ca.gov) or contact us at (877) 693-5610 (877-MWELo10), so that a member of our staff can provide personalized service.

Each local agency has until January 31, 2010, to either notify DWR that it has adopted DWR's updated MWELo; or submit to DWR a copy of its adopted water efficient landscape ordinance, a copy of its findings, and evidence that its water efficient landscape ordinance is at least as effective at conserving water as DWR's updated MWELo. Please submit all notifications and documents to:

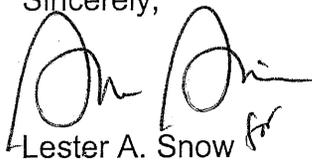
Mr. Simon Eching  
California Department of Water Resource  
Water Use and Efficiency Branch  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

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In California's warm, dry climate, more than half of urban water supplies may be used for landscape irrigation. Ensuring efficient landscapes in new developments and reducing water waste in existing landscapes are among the most cost-effective ways to stretch our limited water supplies and ensure that we continue to have the water we need. Other benefits include reduced irrigation runoff, reduced pollution of waterways, drought resistance, and less green waste.

Thank you for your help conserving California's water supplies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lester A. Snow', with a small 'for' written below it.

Lester A. Snow  
Director

Enclosures

cc: California Urban Water Suppliers