

CITY OF AMERICAN CANYON

Napa Valley's New Destination



January 29, 2010

Mr. Simon Eching
California Department of Water Resources
Water Use and Efficiency Branch
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Dear Mr. Eching:

The state's Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 (AB 1881), adopted on September 10, 2009, requires all local jurisdictions in California to implement either the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) prepared by the Department of Water Resources, or their own "at least as effective" local ordinance as of January 1, 2010. The Act also requires local jurisdictions to report to the Department of Water Resources by January 31, 2010 as to whether the state's model ordinance is being implemented, or a local ordinance has been adopted.

In response to Assembly Bill 1881 requirements, the City of American Canyon has begun implementing the MWELO as of January 1, 2010. The City has amended its entitlement application submittal requirements, and is in the process of developing a separate ministerial Landscape Permit for affected actions such as public agency projects, building permits, and new residential landscapes.

The City of American Canyon is considering developing a local Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance that would include landscape and irrigation guidelines derived from a collaborative effort of stakeholders in the North San Francisco Bay Area (Sonoma, Marin, Napa counties). We anticipate adoption of a local ordinance, or a revised MWELO as recommended by DWR for local use, by mid-year 2010. Following adoption, the City will submit to DWR a copy of the local ordinance, along with evidence that it is at least as effective as the MWELO.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (707) 647-4337 or at scleisz@cityofamericancanyon.org.

Sincerely,

Sandra Cleisz, Senior Planner
Community Development Department