



MARIN COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BRIAN C. CRAWFORD, DIRECTOR

December 14, 2009

Simon Eching  
State of California Department of Water Resources  
Water Use and Efficiency Branch  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236

RE: AB 1881 – Intended Compliance with Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Mandate

Dear Mr. Eching:

This letter responds to Assembly Bill 1881 which established a mandate for local agency adoption of a water conservation ordinance for landscaping. It requires local agencies to notify the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31, 2010 whether a local ordinance has been adopted or if the agency chooses to adopt and implement the State's model ordinance. The State's model ordinance was released by DWR on September 10, 2009.

Marin County is one of the communities at the forefront of planning for sustainable communities through innovative programs and policies that reflect the county's history of environmentalism. This is reflected by the policies and programs contained in our general plan (Marin Countywide Plan). Planning sustainable communities includes the recognition that people must live within the limits of available resources, including water resources. The Countywide Plan promotes and encourages the design of buildings, landscapes, and land use that maximize water efficiency, water conservation, water reuse, and the beneficial uses of stormwater. Marin County's existing water efficient landscape ordinance has been in effect since 1992.

We have followed the efforts of the region's water providers (Marin Municipal Water District and North Marin Water District) to update their water efficient ordinances. Like many local land use agencies, the County of Marin does not have the staff with the technical skills to review landscape and irrigation plans based on a calculated water allowance, nor does the county have the resources to monitor and audit water usage. We plan to update the County's existing water efficient ordinance in early 2010 to ensure that it remains at least as effective as the state's model ordinance. Until then, we will operate under the State's model ordinance as of January 1, 2010 by requiring projects that are served by MMWD and NMWD to demonstrate compliance with their updated ordinances and programs that implement AB 1881. For other unincorporated areas, the county will require compliance with the state's model ordinance for all projects that are subject to that ordinance.

Please call me at (415) 499-6292 or email at [tlai@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:tlai@co.marin.ca.us) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas Lai, AICP  
Deputy Director

Cc: Brian Crawford, CDA; Bill Kelly, CDA  
Berenice Davidson, DPW; David Zaltsman, Deputy County Counsel  
Dan Carney, Marin Municipal Water District; Ryan Grisso, North Marin Water District