

MONTEREY COUNTY

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY



PLANNING DEPARTMENT, Mike Novo, Director

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February 5, 2010

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

RE: Adoption of the Updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Dear Mr. Eching:

Water use in rural Monterey County is heavily regulated in land use projects unlike many urbanized areas. Due to the diversity of natural habitats in the County of Monterey, we have adopted policies and ordinances that require projects to use plant materials native to the specific area where the project is located. These areas are started with above ground drip irrigation that is removed once the plants are established. We only allow small areas of non-native plant materials within a project area (e.g. immediately around a home), so we typically will not reach the threshold established in the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. However, we intend to follow the Department of Water Resources' updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Carl P. Holm, AICP
Assistant Director
Resource Management Agency
Planning Department

cph/lmr