



# City of South Lake Tahoe

*"making a positive difference now"*

State of California Department of Water Resources  
Manucher Alemi, Chief, Water Use and Efficiency Branch  
1416 Ninth Street  
P O Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236-001

March 4, 2010

## **RE: Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Requirements**

The Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 1881) requires the City of South Lake Tahoe to adopt a landscape water conservation ordinance by January 1, 2010, or the Department of Water Resources' Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) will apply as of that date.

The City of South Lake Tahoe is currently updating its General Plan. As part of this process, the City is also updating its Design Standards and Guidelines in order to ensure consistency with the update General Plan policies for water conservation. Until the City of South Lake Tahoe adopts the new General Plan and Design Standards, we will operate under the MWELo for all projects subject to its requirements and submitted as of January 1, 2010. Planning staff has reviewed the MWELo and understands the MWELo applies to the following:

A. The following development requires compliance with the new ordinance:

1. New construction and rehabilitated landscaping for public agency projects and private development projects with a landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet that require a building or planning permit, plan check or design review.
2. New construction and rehabilitated landscapes which are developer-installed in single-family and multi-unit residential projects with a landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet that require a building or planning permit, plan check or design review.
3. New construction landscapes which are homeowner-provided and/or homeowner-hired in single-family or multi-family residential projects with a total project landscape area equal to or greater than 5,000 square feet requiring that require a building or planning permit, plan check or design review.
4. Existing landscapes limited to Sections §493, §493.1 and 493.2

5. The special landscape requirements management needs of cemeteries limited to MWELo Sections §492.4, §492.11 and §492.12 for new and rehabilitated cemeteries and existing cemeteries are limited to MWELo Sections §493, §493.1 and §493.2.

B. The MWELo does not apply to the following:

1. Registered local, state or federal historic sites
2. Ecological restoration projects and mined-land reclamation projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system.
3. Plant collections that are part of botanical gardens and arboretums which are open to the public.

The City of South Lake Tahoe has landscape and irrigation standards and Best Management Practices in place and we will update our standards and guidelines to implement the requirements of the MWELo. City staff understands that since the City has not adopted its own ordinance by the January 1, 2010 deadline, we are therefore bound by the MWELo and will enforce its requirements. The City of South Lake Tahoe Planning Division has made *The Updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance* provided by the California Department of Water Resources available at the Planning Division public counter.

Sincerely,



Rick Angelocci  
Assistant City Manager

Cc: David Jinkens, City Manager  
Hilary Hodges, Planning Manager  
Patrick Enright, City Attorney  
Jacqueline Mittelstadt, Assistant City Attorney