

Colvin, Judith

From: mweo-bounces@water.ca.gov on behalf of Green Product Sales [gps10@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 7:45 PM
To: mweo@water.ca.gov
Subject: [MWEO] AB 1881 Model Ordinance
Attachments: Letter to DWR - AB 1881 Model Ordinance.pdf

Please review comments on the proposed Model Ordinance.

Thank you,

Daryl Green



March 26, 2008

Attention: Judy Colvin
Department of Water Resources
Office of Water Use Efficiency and Transfers
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Judy,

I am writing to you to voice my opinion in regards to AB 1881. I am in complete agreement with the American Society of Irrigation Consultants (ASIC) prepared comments on the Model Ordinance.

I have had the opportunity to be involved in the landscape industry for over 30 years including a degree in Horticulture from Cal Poly. I managed water on vast properties throughout Orange Co. and worked with most landscape architect firms and irrigation consulting firms throughout California selling, supporting and consulting on more central control based systems than anyone alive today. With all of my connections, I have been surprised at how little people know of what has been developing over the past few years. Very few consultants had any idea of what AB 2717 was all about. Even very involved and connected water agency people continue to be unaware.

From the very beginning, the best minds in California water management were never involved in the process of AB 2717 through the early stages of AB 1881. It seemed as if committees of people were created without any real thought or semblance of who should have been on those original committees. As there were many fine individuals involved in AB 2717, there were many exceptional people who were omitted from the process or opportunity to be involved.

Only now are we starting to see problems as recognized in AB 1881. It seems as if there was a need to created extensive and complicated rules that only created more rules that ultimately place the responsibility of these many layers onto public agencies that do not have either the money or manpower to police these rules.

In the end, none of this will realize the ultimate result...water savings. If the state did nothing more than require tiered structured water rates, they will see tremendous reductions in water without the need for all of this rule book writing. Efficiency means low water rates and waste means you pay triple. That simplicity will entice cities, schools, HOA's, cemeteries etc. to spend money on consultants and other landscape professionals to fix the problem quickly and efficiently the way private enterprise works best. Water is business and rate structuring will force business to react in a manner that will get results. When I began managing water in the 80's, I never imagined that it would be 2010 before I would realize that water management would be a real business. Until water becomes gas-like expensive will consumers realize that they need to improve their efficiency and actually manage their water. Unlike gas, tiered structure water rates give the consumer the opportunity to be rewarded for efficiency...and efficiency pays.

The great state of California has great imbalances from urban to rural to agricultural counties that include water agencies of all shapes and sizes. Some are poor and some are the super-rich. The state must consider these discrepancies with any plan. Whatever the DWR does, don't follow through with the current Model Ordinance. It over-analyzes without scientific support and lacks the ability to follow-through to ensure manageability.

Sincerely,

Daryl Green