

Colvin, Judith

From: Pamela Pavela [ppavela@wmwd.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 10:08 AM
To: John Rossi; dkuenzi@rcbos.org; Kristi Lovelady; Paul Rugge; Jeff Sims; Jeffrey Minkler; Jack Safely; mweo@water.ca.gov; Michele Underwood; Monique Navarrette; Rebecca Garcia-Holtzclaw; Tedi Jackson; Alison Loukeh; Barbara Gallert; Bill Thompson; Cheryl Russell; Clay Monroe; Cordell Chavez; Dave Lopez; Karl Schalow; Lydia Popow; Rob Whipple; Rose Matthews; Roseann Becerra; Shelby Wimberly; Terry Piorkowski; Tim Barr; Yolette Meyers
Subject: Comments to State Model Landscape Ordinance
Attachments: Judy Colvin_ State Model Water Efficient LandscapeOrdinance.pdf

Hello,

Attached is a letter of comment from Western to the Department of Water Resources regarding the State Model Landscape Ordinance. Please go to www.owue.water.ca.gov/landscape/ord/updatedOrd.cfm to view the ordinance. *The public comment period ends today* with a meeting at Inland Empire Utilities Agency. I am at the meeting today; please call Tedi Jackson at 951.809.5942 if you have any questions this afternoon.

Thank you,

Lynne Denman on behalf of Pam Pavela

Pam Pavela
Public Affairs Representative III
Western Municipal Water District
ppavela@wmwd.com
951 789-5036 Fax 951 780-3837
Visit us on the web at www.wmwd.com



John V. Rossi
General Manager

Charles D. Field
Division 1

Thomas P. Evans
Division 2

Brenda A. Dennstedt
Division 3

Donald D. Galleano
Division 4

S.R. Al Lopez
Division 5

March 26, 2008

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

Comments to the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Dear Ms. Colvin:

Considering the current and unknown future of water supplies in California, the California Department of Water Resources is to be commended for its attempt to create an updated model water-efficient landscape ordinance for the State of California. Western Municipal Water District applauds the ordinance for its intent and goals. The Water Task Force of Riverside County, which Western now chairs, created the Riverside County Ordinance No. 859, Water Efficient Landscape Requirements Ordinance. The County ordinance closely aligns with the intent of the State Model Ordinance, and the Water Task Force is looking forward to updating its ordinance to comply with the State ordinance.

The attempt to establish a new ordinance that will affect the vast majority of Californians is monumental. Thus, it is likely to have some opposition and obstacles which will generate comment and concerns. Western Municipal Water District's main concern, as well as the concern of other commenting agencies, is the burden of additional time and resources that will be required to implement this ordinance as it is written. Of particular concern is the water audits portion of the ordinance (Sections 492.14 and 493.1). We agree that water use should be tracked over time to ensure ongoing compliance with water budgets; realistically, however, there are little to no resources available to provide the extensive tracking required by the model ordinance as currently written, especially for existing landscapes.

Western would like to see an exemption to the water audits portion of the ordinance if a landscape for which the ordinance applies is subject to individual allocated water-budgeted tiered rates provided by its water purveyor. As the Association of Irrigation Consultants pointed out in their comments to this ordinance, the only realistic way to ensure saving water in the landscape over time is to track water use against the Maximum Applied Water Use calculations (MAWA), and assess penalties for exceeding the MAWA. This will require landscape area data for each customer—a costly endeavor. But if water-budgeted tiered rates are in place, this tracking is automatically occurring at regular intervals as part of the billing system. The Model Ordinance, as currently written,

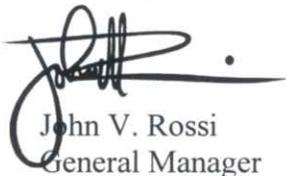
mandates an evapotranspiration adjustment factor of 0.7, or 70%, of reference evapotranspiration. Irvine Ranch Water District, which has had a successful water-budgeted tiered rate structure in place since 1991, has been able to surpass the mandate by maintaining an average customer water use at 0.6, or 60%, of their reference evapotranspiration rate without an ordinance requiring their customers to maintain this rate.

On a more specific note, Western would like to see the following recommendations considered:

1. Clearly define the roles and requirements of water purveyors and local agencies.
2. Define plant coefficients for use in the Estimated Water Use formulas. In other words, which species are ranked as low water use, moderate water use, etc.?
3. Eliminate the requirement for irrigation schedules, since smart controllers or soil moisture technologies do not require the use of schedules.
4. To simplify, the use of turf should not be allowed in medians or parkways. These two types of areas are a cause of significant irrigation run-off.

Thank you for considering our comments and recommendations. If you have any questions please call me at (951) 789-5050, or contact Tedi Jackson, Public Affairs Manager at (951) 789-5055.

Sincerely,



John V. Rossi
General Manager
Western Municipal Water District

JVR/pp

cc: Tedi Jackson, Public Affairs Manager