

**Colvin, Judith**

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**From:** mweo-bounces@water.ca.gov on behalf of Francie Kennedy [FKennedy@SanJuanCapistrano.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2008 10:10 AM  
**To:** mweo@water.ca.gov  
**Subject:** [MWE0] Comment on MWE0 form San Juan Capistrano

Dear Judy,

We in San Juan Capistrano applaud the Department of Water Resources' efforts to draft a model ordinance which represents the best ideas available for efficient water use in the landscape. This is no small task, and the time is ripe. We have recently held several small regional meetings among South Orange County cities and water districts to brainstorm suggestions for how the draft may be fine-tuned. It appears that the concerns and questions that our city planning staff have had, will be amply addressed in the comments submitted to you by the San Diego County Water Authority, and by Joe Berg of the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

We have one comment not mentioned elsewhere. San Juan Capistrano has many historic sites, and one clarification (perhaps unique to us) would be helpful: In the definitions, and with reference to Section 491, our planning staff would like to see "Registered Historic Site" include those sites on an agency's local list, as well as sites on a state or federal list.

As Water Conservation Coordinator, I strongly support the 0.7 ET factor. I know DWR will receive comments opposing this number, however, using our water billing data I have concluded that this is an entirely realistic and achievable water budget. With a strong message from DWR via this new model ordinance, more water agencies may be able to adopt rate structures that reflect this as a prudent level of water use. We have had such a water-budget-based rate structure for 16 years, and it is a remarkably useful tool for guiding sensible water use and reducing waste. I provided some historical water use data to DWR during the process of drafting the ordinance, and will be happy to expand on my analysis if the Department would find it helpful.

Broadly, this model ordinance is a "before and after" document – guiding good planning and design before a project is built, and monitoring water use after it is built. San Juan Capistrano now has water and city functions under one roof. It was not always so, and when separate, there can be barriers to sharing the water use information in the "after" phase. Any means that can be created within the ordinance to strengthen the City/Water Agency partnership & require the participation of water agencies will help ensure success.

Best Regards,

*Francie*

Francie Kennedy

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