

Colvin, Judith

From: mweo-bounces@water.ca.gov on behalf of Ray Collins [ray@krillion.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 12:56 PM
To: mweo@water.ca.gov
Cc: raykcol@yahoo.com
Subject: [MWEQ] Comments for Los Altos Hills

March 27, 2008

Judy Colvin
 Department of Water Resources
 Office of Water Use Efficiency and Transfers
 P.O. Box 942836
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Proposed Update to the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Dear Ms. Colvin:

I am a resident of Los Altos Hills (LAH), an experienced urban planner, and educator for water conservation. While the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance provides a real chance to address our excessive water use in LAH, many of the requirements do not fit our Town's water usage behavior and landscape approval processes. I believe our Town can provide an Ordinance that adequately meets the intent of the State Dept. of Water Resources.

I would suggest for a LAH ordinance: **Minimum landscape area of 10,000 sq.ft.**

1. The minimum lot size in Los Altos Hills is 1 acre. Therefore, most of the new irrigated landscapes are likely to be 7,000 to 10,000 square feet. Any relatively small landscapes of 2,500 s.f. would be extremely arduous for our town to monitor such that the ultimate water savings would be unjustified.
2. A minimum of 10,000 s.f. allows us to more easily identify the current landscapes for which we don't have submitted landscape plans, and those would be subject to audits.
3. New home construction and remodels, the greatest uses of water in LAH, might be influenced to be designed with irrigated landscapes under 10,000s.f. to avoid the costly and time consuming landscape plan submittal process and audits. The intent is that more s.f. of newly constructed lots will be designed for drought tolerant landscapes.

A Model Water Conservation Ordinance for Los Altos Hills that addresses the particular landscape needs of large lots would be more effective and feasible to implement than adopting the State's proposed Ordinance. The Town's Ordinance would be used in combination with

- . LAH proposed Green Building Ordinance which does require efficient irrigated landscapes
- . 2008 tiered water rate increases by Purisima Hills Water District

Sincerely,

9/3/2008

Ray Collins
25600 Elena Rd.
Los Altos Hills, Ca 94022