

# ARCHITERRA design group

landscape architecture and planning

March 20, 2008

Department of Water Resources  
Office of Water Use Efficiency and Transfers  
PO BOX 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-001  
Attention: Judy Colvin

RE: Model Water Efficient Landscape Comments

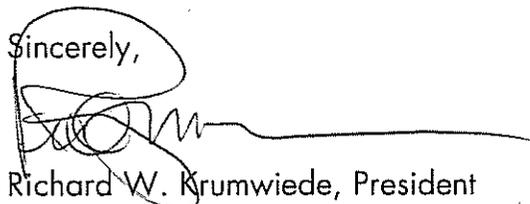
Dear Ms. Colvin,

We, like so many others in our profession, are very aware of the scarcity of water within the State, particularly here in Southern California. Consequently we are always having to tailor our landscape construction documents around one water ordinance or another, whether it be on the State, County, or local level. It has been in our experience that our best plans will only go so far and that at some point the maintenance and control of the water systems will be in the hands of someone else, someone who may not be held responsible to comply with AB 1881.

We are writing this letter to you to express our support and agreement with the recommendations set forth by the American Society of Irrigation Consultants (ASIC). We feel that this bill, in its current form, will do very little to reduce the amount of landscape irrigation water that is wasted. There are current guidelines and requirements in place that are far more effective (i.e., Riverside County Ordinance 859, California Friendly Landscaping) and far less cumbersome than AB 1881. Furthermore, AB 1881 does little to address the responsibility of the end-user, whether it be individual property owners or landscape management companies, the people who will have final control over how much water is applied to the landscape. Additionally, we support the development of a tiered water structure where local agencies would have more control over the amount of wasted water by being able to specifically target individual users and impose restrictions, either financially or by denial of services.

Architerra Design Group considers itself to be on the forefront of issues dealing with efficient water use, sustainability, and conservation. We make it a point to ensure that every project we do as much as we can to reduce the amount of water used, through a combination of specifying the latest in irrigation equipment, incorporating drip irrigation where feasible, on-site weather stations, and designing with appropriate plant material. We would like to voice our support for a bill that would take into consideration the recommendations of the ASIC and we ask that the State reconsider the overall impact of AB 1881.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Krumwiede, President

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