

Colvin, Judith

From: mweo-bounces@water.ca.gov on behalf of kathyseal@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 5:32 PM
To: mweo@water.ca.gov
Subject: [MWEO] Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Comments on FinalDraft

Dear Ms. Colvin

Please do all you can to support the Department of Water Resources (DWR) plan to amend the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MO).

Climate change threatens our state's limited water supply. Wisdom dictates acting NOW i to reduce water consumption. Governor Schwarzenegger has recently called for a 20 percent reduction in per capita water use statewide by 2020. This updated MO could be an important component in order to achieve the Governor,s goal.

I commend DWR for updating the MO in order to reduce Californias water use. In particular, I support the following changes to the MO:

1. A Reduction of Evapotranspiration Adjustment Factor (ETAF) to 0.7.

Improvements in irrigation technology, landscape design, and maintenance since the MO was first adopted, justify a reduction of ETAF to 0.7. The switch from 0.8 to 0.7 can be easily attained with minor improvements in irrigation efficiency. Currently, many water agencies are already achieving an ETAF of less than 0.8.

2. A 24 Setback. The current draft of the MO proposes that landscapes that are within 24 inches of nonpermeable hardscape, such as a sidewalk, need to be watered with drip or subsurface irrigation. I support this change in the MO because it will help to reduce wasteful and polluted runoff. Water agencies like Coachella already require drip irrigation or low volume flow on this 24setback. This amendment will do much to reduce runoff and improve water quality.

3. Increased Compliance and Enforcement Mechanisms. The proposed MO clearly identifies the required elements and responsible parties during the design, installation and inspection of a landscape project in order to certify compliance with the ordinance. The proposed MO allows a local agency to administer penalties for non-compliance with the landscape ordinance. These penalties include denying a Certificate of Occupancy until the landscape has been certified as complying with the ordinance, monetary fines, and the termination of water service. These changes are necessary to authorize a local agency to enforce the ordinance.

Urban landscapes are important. But landscape irrigation is the single largest use of water in urban areas, and this amendment will help preserve this resource. I thank DWR for amending the MO to reflect the best available science and research to conserve water.

Sincerely,

Kathy Seal
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