

Colvin, Judith

From: mweo-bounces@water.ca.gov on behalf of rsdispose2@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 2:54 PM
To: mweo@water.ca.gov
Subject: [MWEQ] Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Comments on FinalDraft

Dear Ms. Colvin

I want to express my support of the Department of Water Resources plan to amend the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MO).

We face threats to our water supply from increasing demand, climate change and natural disasters. California must act now to reduce water consumption. Governor Schwarzenegger has recently called for a 20 percent reduction in per capita water use statewide by 2020. I believe that this updated MO could contribute strongly to achieving the Governor's goal.

I commend DWR for updating the MO in order to reduce California's water use. In particular, the following changes are valuable:

1. A Reduction of Evapotranspiration Adjustment Factor (ETAF) to 0.7. Improvements in irrigation technology, landscape design, and maintenance justify such a reduction. The change from 0.8 to 0.7 can be attained with minor improvements in irrigation efficiency. Currently, many water agencies already achieve 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. Some water agencies (e.g. Coachella) already require drip irrigation or low volume flow on this 24 setback. This change in the MO will help to reduce wasteful and polluted 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. A local agency is allowed to administer penalties for non-compliance, including denying a Certificate of Occupancy, monetary fines, and the termination of water service. These MO changes are necessary to authorize a local agency to enforce the ordinance.

Landscape irrigation is the single largest use of water in urban areas, and water is a resource this state cannot afford to waste. I appreciate what DWR has done in amending the MO to reflect the best available science in order to conserve water.

Sincerely,
Rita Summers

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