

MWEO

From: Larry laquinto [larryi@cityofcampbell.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2008 10:11 AM
To: MWEO
Subject: Draft Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

To Whom It May Concern,

Comment 020.1

I am writing you with my comments regarding the draft proposal "Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance". I appreciate the opportunity that you have extended for comment. This is the first I have read of the proposal and must point out that this proposal, in it's current form, is a plan that will have a detrimental impact to the landscape industry. Requiring Municipal agencies to obtain a permit including a "Landscape Documentation Package" for installations or renovations of landscape areas as small as 2500 square feet is simply unacceptable. In many instances, the cost of preparing the "Landscape Documentation Package" will far exceed the cost of the entire project itself. In these current economic times, this plan will only further strain cities as they are forced to implement yet another process, and, will likely put some small businesses out of existence due to unreasonable costs associated with the implementation of this ordinance.

It would seem to make sense to focus on training, and continual credits towards a certification, for individuals in the landscape industry in regards to responsible water and plant material management. Therefore, at minimum, the current proposal requiring a permit for 2500 sq. ft of commercial/municipal landscape installations or renovations, and 5000 sq. ft. or greater for private landscape renovations or installations, needs to be raised to a much higher limit. However, given all the current conditions, my recommendation is to rewrite the plan to focus on training. Most, if not all, Municipalities are sensitive to the water issues and have made great strides, through a lot of expense and training, to have the latest technologies and plant management skills implemented in their agencies. This proposal seems to be aimed at the wrong target group.

My recommendation is to re-work this proposal at this time and to redirect the focus toward education and training. I feel it is important to foster a healthy economy while being good stewards of our resources.

Larry laquinto
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