



Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Reporting Form

C1	Agency Name:	Kern County Planning and Community Development Department
C2	Address:	2700 M Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301
C3	Contact Name:	Scott F. Denney, AICP
C4	Title:	Division Chief
C5	Phone Number:	(661)862-8631
C6	Phone Extention:	
C6	Email:	ScottD@co.kern.ca.us
1a	Is your agency adopting a single agency ordinance OR a regional agency alliance ordinance?	Single Agency Ordinance ▼
1b	Date of adoption OR anticipated adoption:	ce by Planning Commission and then Board of Supervisors by summer of 2016
2a	Reporting period:	
2b	December 1, 2015 through December 28, 2015 (all agencies)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
2c	February 1, 2016 through February 28, 2016 (additional reporting period for agencies crafting regional ordinances with other agencies)	<input type="radio"/>
3a	Are you using:	a locally modified Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO) ▼
3b	For agencies who have adopted a modified WELO	
3c	Is it at least as efficient as MWELO?	Yes ▼
3d	URL for your WELO	http://www.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/KCZODec15.pdf
3e	List major changes from the State's MWELO	<p>Present ordinance based on 2010 MWELO. Present provisions differ from 2015 requirements as follows: (1) Only applies to individually owned lots developed with a single-family residence in specific areas; (2) Swimming pools designed for recreational purposes are not included in the calculations for the overall water budget for a project; (3) Irrigation audit required to be performed by a qualified professional after the landscaping is initially installed but does not require subsequent audits. Nevertheless, audits may be required if substantial changes or additions made to the landscaped area or in response to complaints alleging non-compliance; (4) Soil testing is recommended, but do not require specific soil tests to be performed and analyzed at an independent laboratory; (5) A separate grading plan need not be submitted with the landscaping and irrigation system plans when they are submitted; (6) No prohibition of sprinkler installation within 24" of hardscape; (7) Does not mandate that irrigation systems use recycled water; and (8) Requires the professional who prepared the landscape or irrigation plan (Landscape Architect, Landscape Contractor or Irrigation Designer) to certify that the plans meet the requirements in addition to certifying that the landscaping and irrigation system has been installed as required.</p>



Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Reporting Form

3f	If specific types of projects are exempt (other than those already specified in MWELO), state what they are and the sections of the ordinance that they are exempt from.	Individually owned lots developed with a single-family residence outside of the Indian Wells Valley Land Use Management Plan area presently exempt. Refer to Sections 19.80.015.B and 19.86.025
3g	Have elements from other regulations been incorporated (e.g., tree shading percent coverage requirement, stormwater capture requirements).	Yes ▼
3h	If yes, describe:	Section 19.82.090.I developed to provide tree shading to meet 40% canopy requirements mandated by General Plan
4	If other agencies are implementing the ordinance, explain their role:	Kern County Public Works Department
5	Permitted projects subject to the ordinance during the reporting period (*e.g., single family residences, commercial projects, landscape retrofits for which permits were finalized during the reporting period, etc.):	(1) New single family residences (certain areas) in addition to multifamily, commercial, and industrial developments; and (2) Remodel\expansions to multifamily, commercial, and industrial developments exceeding 50% of the pre-existing condition. Existing ordinance threshold of demonstrating compliance with Water Efficient Landscape requirements reduced from 2,500 square feet to 500 square feet in the interim period pending adoption of ordinance revisions in 2016.
6a	Total landscape area subject to the ordinance over the reporting period:	27,131.0
6b	Unit of Measure (sq. ft. or acres)	Square Feet ▼
7a	During the reporting period, how many of the following types of projects did your agency issue final permits on:	
7b	new housing starts	-
7c	new commercial projects	1
7d	landscape retrofits	-
8	Describe the procedure for review of projects subject to the ordinance:	Refer to Section 19.86.080
9a	Describe actions taken to verify compliance:	Refer to Sections 19.86.080 and 19.86.090
9b	Is a plan check performed?	Yes ▼
9c	If so, by what entity?	Kern County Planning and Community Development Department and Kern County Public Works Department
10	Describe implementation and enforcement measures:	Refer to Sections 19.86.080 and 19.86.090
11	Explain challenges to implementing and enforcing the ordinance:	The 2015 MWELO framework design does not lend itself to being realistically functional unless the agency implementing the ordinance: (a) is also the water purveyor; and (b) has a program to administer audits\surveys in perpetuity after a Certificate of Occupancy for a structure has been issued (i.e., continuing to monitor a project after it has been completed\finalized).



Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Reporting Form

12	Describe educational and other needs to properly apply the ordinance:	Need to coordinate implementation with: (1) local permitting agencies; (2) water purveyors; (3) professionals (i.e., landscape architects\landscape contractors\irrigation designers\; and (4) property owners (present and future) subject to 2015 MWELo standards as the latter will be moving into structures subject to continual ongoing audits.
13	Additional Comments:	These are significant requirements that, given all the variables with the local agencies involved and their various situations, do not lend themselves to a "one size fits all" regulation. Consequently, more attention to functional detail is needed for the model; especially, with regards to urban versus rural developments and their water infrastructure.

[Please submit reports, including a copy of your local water efficient landscape ordinance, via email to \[WELO@water.ca.gov\]\(mailto:WELO@water.ca.gov\) by December 31, 2015. Agencies preparing a regional ordinance must submit an additional report by March 1, 2016. For questions, please call Ms. Julie Saare-Edmonds at \(916\) 651-9676.](#)