

Updated
Model Water Efficient
Landscape Ordinance
AB 1881

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) HISTORY

- AB 325 - 1990
- AB 2717 - 2004
- AB 1881 - 2006

Directed DWR to update the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance



**To update the MWELO,
DWR....**

...included the provisions of AB 1881



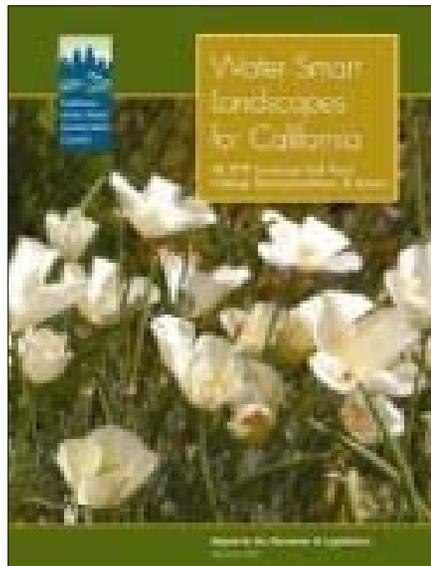
Provisions in AB 1881

- minimize overspray and runoff
- landscape water budgets
- appropriate use and groupings of plants
- automatic irrigation systems and schedules
- soil assessment and soil management plans
- Include landscape maintenance practices
- encourage the capture and retention of storm water onsite
- encourage the use of recycled water
- encourage use of economic incentives
- educate water users



To update the MWELO, DWR....

...considered recommendations of the
AB 2717 Landscape Task Force Report



To update the MWELO, DWR....

...considered stakeholder input

**14 public discussions or
stakeholder meetings**



- Landscape Industry Professionals
 - University horticulturists
 - Public Agencies
 - CUWCC Landscape Committee members
 - Non-Profit Agencies
 - Landscape Task Force members
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To update the MWEL0, DWR....

...considered public comments – per APA



- Three public comment periods
 - Two public hearings
 - Over 800 public comments
 - All comments and responses posted on website
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To update the MWELO, DWR....

- Researched and reviewed local landscape ordinances (30+)
- Conducted an extensive literature review for Evapotranspiration Adjustment Factor (ETAf) recommendation



AB 1881 - Local Agencies

Local agencies - all cities and counties, including charter cities and counties, to adopt and implement a water efficient landscape ordinance.

In the previous ordinance (1992) charter cities and counties were not included.



AB 1881 - Local Agencies

By January 1, 2010 local agencies must:

1. Adopt the updated Model Ordinance (MO), or...
2. Adopt a different ordinance that is **at least as effective** in conserving water as the updated MO, or...

If a local agency takes no action, the updated MO will go into effect as if it were adopted and shall have the same force and effect as if adopted by the local agency.

AB 1881 - Local Agencies

By January 31, 2010 local agencies must notify DWR...

- Which ordinance is in place
- Include a copy of the ordinance
- Include “Findings” and “Evidence in Record”



AB 1881 - DWR



- By January 31, 2011, DWR shall submit a report to the legislature on the status of compliance.
 - The statute does not require DWR to approve or disapprove any ordinance - only to report to the legislature on adoption.
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Important Dates

September 10, 2009	Updated Model Ordinance is approved
January 1, 2010	Local agencies shall adopt the Model Ordinance, or one that is at least as effective as the Model Ordinance in conserving water
January 31, 2010	Local agencies submit notification of adoption to DWR
January 31, 2011	DWR shall submit a report to legislature on the status of adopted ordinances by local agencies

“...at least as effective as...”

Questions a local agency can ask to evaluate its ordinance

- Is the **ordinance applicable** to all landscapes identified in the applicability section of the Model Ordinance?
 - Is the most efficient and **appropriate irrigation equipment** required?
 - Does the **irrigation design plan** encourage or require the use of improved technology?
 - Is **irrigation scheduling** based on CIMIS or other reliable ETo data or soil moisture sensors?
 - Does the ordinance have a **Maximum Applied Water Allowance** (MAWA) water budget based on ETAF of 0.7 for new and rehabilitated landscapes?
 - Is there a **water budget** that can support an average 0.5 plant factor palette without wasting or overusing water?
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More

Questions a local agency can ask to evaluate its ordinance

- Will **overspray and runoff** be prohibited?
 - Do the **audit and maintenance sections** of the ordinance meet minimum requirements of the Model Ordinance?
 - Does the **landscape documentation component comply** with the ordinance requirements?
 - Will the plants be grouped in **hydrozones**?
 - Is **recycled water** use required where available?
 - Will opportunities for **stormwater retention** be taken advantage of?
 - Is **mulch required** where appropriate?
 - Will the **soil be assessed** and/ or amended prior to planting?
 - Are the **mechanisms in place** to ensure compliance?
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The Role of Water Purveyors



- The MWELO is directed to local agencies
 - The **local agency may designate another agency**, such as a water purveyor to assume some or all of the responsibilities of enforcing a water efficient landscape ordinance
 - Must be agreed upon by all agencies involved
 - **Water Agencies get credit toward CUWCC BMPs**
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Purpose of the MWELO

- To **establish a structure** for designing, installing, maintaining and managing water efficient landscapes in new and rehabilitated projects
 - **Reduce water use** to the lowest practical amount and set an upper limit that shall not be exceeded.
 - To **establish provisions** for water management practices and water waste prevention **for established landscapes.**
 - **Promote the values and benefits of landscapes** while recognizing the need to use water and other resources efficiently.
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Coming up.....

**Inside the Model
Water Efficient
Landscape
Ordinance**