



# Updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance: Opportunities for Planners, Water Suppliers, Community

Statewide Workshops  
by Marsha Prillwitz,  
[marsha@cuwcc.org](mailto:marsha@cuwcc.org)



# Presentation Overview

- **Opportunities for links between Model Ordinance and CUWCC Landscape BMP**
- **Opportunities for regional coordination and cooperation**



# CUWCC Memorandum of Understanding

- **MOU signed 12/11/1991**
- **100 signatories: water agencies, environmental groups, & others**
- **Signers pledged “good faith effort” to implement BMPs that are cost-effective**
- **MOU created CUWCC as governing body**



# CUWCC Today

- **431 Signatories**
  - **255 Group 1, water suppliers**
  - **35 Group 2, public advocacy**
  - **141 Group 3, other interest groups**
- **4 Plenary meetings, 4 Board meetings annually**
- **One vote per agency within each caucus**



# CUWCC Activities

- **Website for technical info, BMP reporting, news, calendar**
- **Workshops, Technical Assistance**
- **Statewide Conservation Programs**
- **Green Building & Energy Research**
- **Lend. library, publications for sale**
- **Drought Action Alert**
- **Best Management Practices**
- **Landscape BMP Handbook (2010)**



# California's Urban Best Management Practices

- **State-of-the-art conservation programs**
- **Voluntary, non-regulatory, with financial incentive (AB 1420)**



# Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- 1 Water survey programs for residential customers
- 2 Residential plumbing retrofit
- 3 System water audits, leak detection and repair
- 4 Metering with commodity rates
- 5 Large landscape conservation programs and incentives
- 6 High efficiency clothes-washing machine financial incentive
- 7 Public information programs
- 8 School education programs
- 9 Programs for commercial, industrial, institutional (CII)
- 10 Wholesale agency assistance programs
- 11 Retail conservation pricing
- 12 Conservation coordinator
- 13 Water waste prohibition
- 14 Residential ultra-low-flush toilet (ULFT) replacement



# BMP Structure Options

- **Traditional BMP compliance based on level of activities**
- **Flex Track based on sum of water savings achieved through implementation of measures**
- **GPCD approach quantifying overall water savings: 18% reduction in GPCD by 2018, comply w foundational BMPs, report every 2 years**



# Organization of BMPs

- **14 BMPs in 5 categories**
- **Foundational BMPs: Utility Operations and Education- required, on-going**
- **Programmatic BMPs: Residential; Commercial Industrial and Institutional; *Landscape*- to attain water savings goals**



# Utility Operations

## *Water Waste Prevention*

- *Enact, enforce or support local ordinances prohibiting gutter flooding, single-pass cooling, non-recirculating systems in car washes and commercial laundries, non-recycling decorative fountains*



# Landscape BMP

- **90% of dedicated CII landscape meters**, identify and assign Eto-based water budgets  $\leq 70\%$  ET0
- **15% of mixed and unmetered CII connections**, strategy targeting and marketing large landscape water use surveys
- **Offer financial incentives**



# Landscape BMP

- ***Complements the Model Landscape Ordinance***
- **Extensive Flex Menu: achieve water savings greater than that which would have been achieved using BMP list**



# Landscape Flex Track Menu Examples

- **Perform landscape and irrigation audits**
- **Sponsor landscape workshops, training, presentations**
- **Provide technical assistance, incentives**
- **Participate in local/regional planning/regulatory efforts**



# Planners Needed!

- **Lead agencies for ordinances**
- **Share project documentation with water suppliers**
- **Involve water suppliers & stakeholders in ordinance development process**
- **Participate in suppliers'/ stakeholders' activities**



# Water Suppliers Needed!

- **Participate in ordinance drafting**
- **Provide:**
  - water use data
  - water conservation materials
  - support training for/by landscapers, builders, planners, water staff
- **Include planners in advis. com.**



# Community Based Organizations Needed!

- **“Watch”**
- **Support good efforts**
- **Participate in ordinance development process**
- **Participate in public outreach, advisory committees, training opportunities**



# **Business Community and Landscape Industry Needed!**

- **Recognize & embrace benefits of water efficient landscapes- build water conservation into business models**
- **Educate members, planners, water suppliers**
- **Find shared interests, represent industry in public settings**



# Benefits of a Regional Approach

- **Shared resources, responsibilities**
- **Consistency across region**
- **Take advantage of existing structures & financing, i.e. water suppliers' commitment to BMPs; RWQCB's water quality rules; Integrated Regional Water Management Plan processes**



# Examples of Regional Efforts

- **IEUA Landscape Alliance: 13 agencies working collaboratively to develop and implement regional ordinance**
- **Build It Green and StopWaste.com working with planners, water districts, sustainability interests to collaborate, coordinate efforts**



# ***CUWCC Resource: Smart Urban Landscapes- Project Components***

**Landscape Design Guidelines in the form of a *Water Smart Landscape Checklist*, incorporating the best ideas from existing standards for new residential construction**

**Residential landscape and irrigation design templates for 7 climatic regions that incorporate Landscape Design Guidelines**



# ***Checklist Elements***

- **Irrigation systems**
- **Site planning and design**
- **Drainage & stormwater management**
- **Grading & soil health**
- **Maintenance**



# *Design Templates*

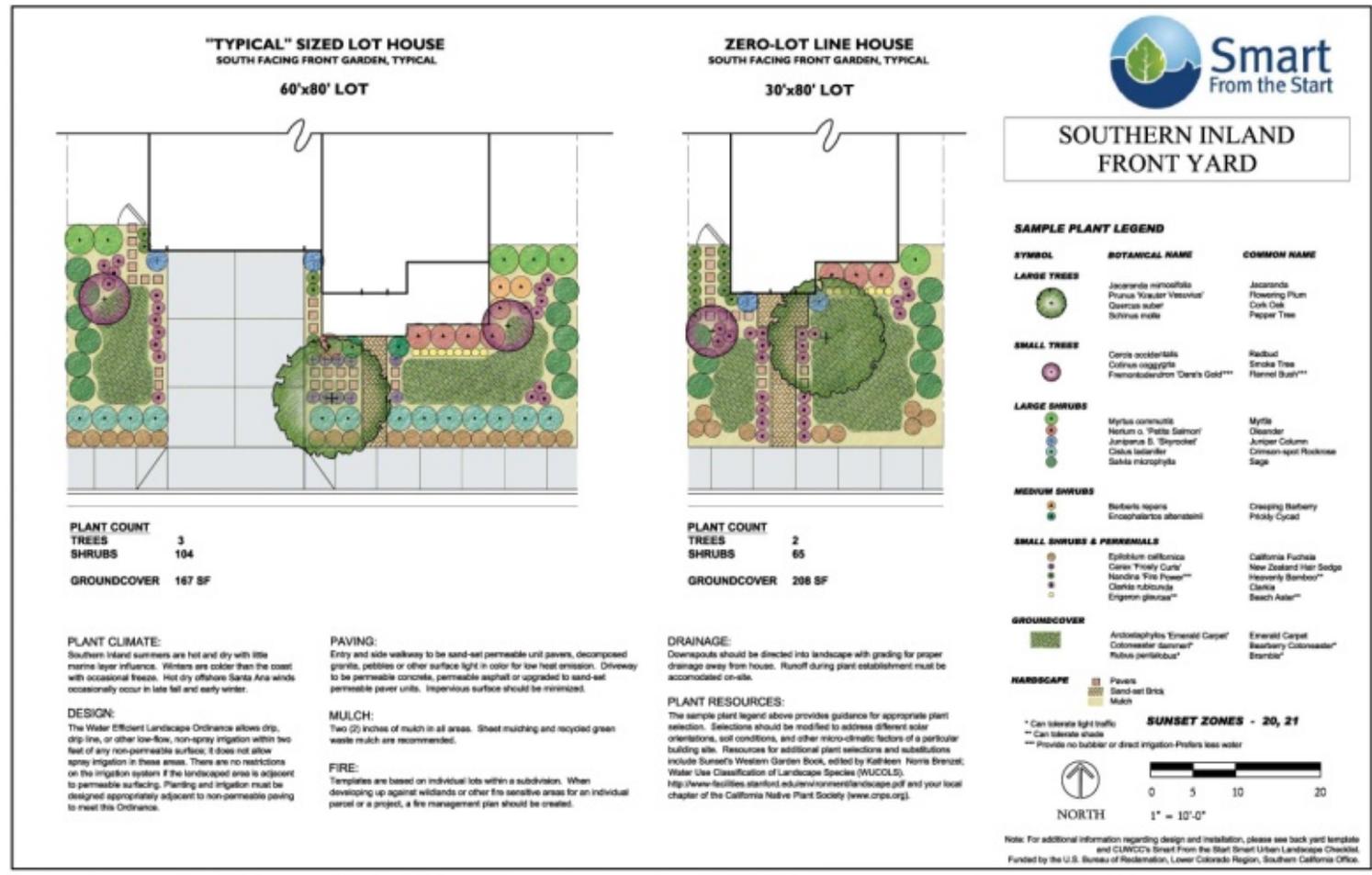
- For “typical” & “zero-lot line” homes
- Front & back, active & passive
- Bay Area; Central Valley; Sierra Foothills; Southern Coastal, Southern Inland, Southern Foothills, and High Desert
- Landscape design with plant list
- Irrigation design with schedule & water budget



# ***Landscape templates feature:***

- **Function and fashion for the landscape**
- **Typical full size lot vs. zero lot line**
- **Sustainable practices**
- **Plant selection for natives in each zone**
- **Instructions for installation and maintenance**

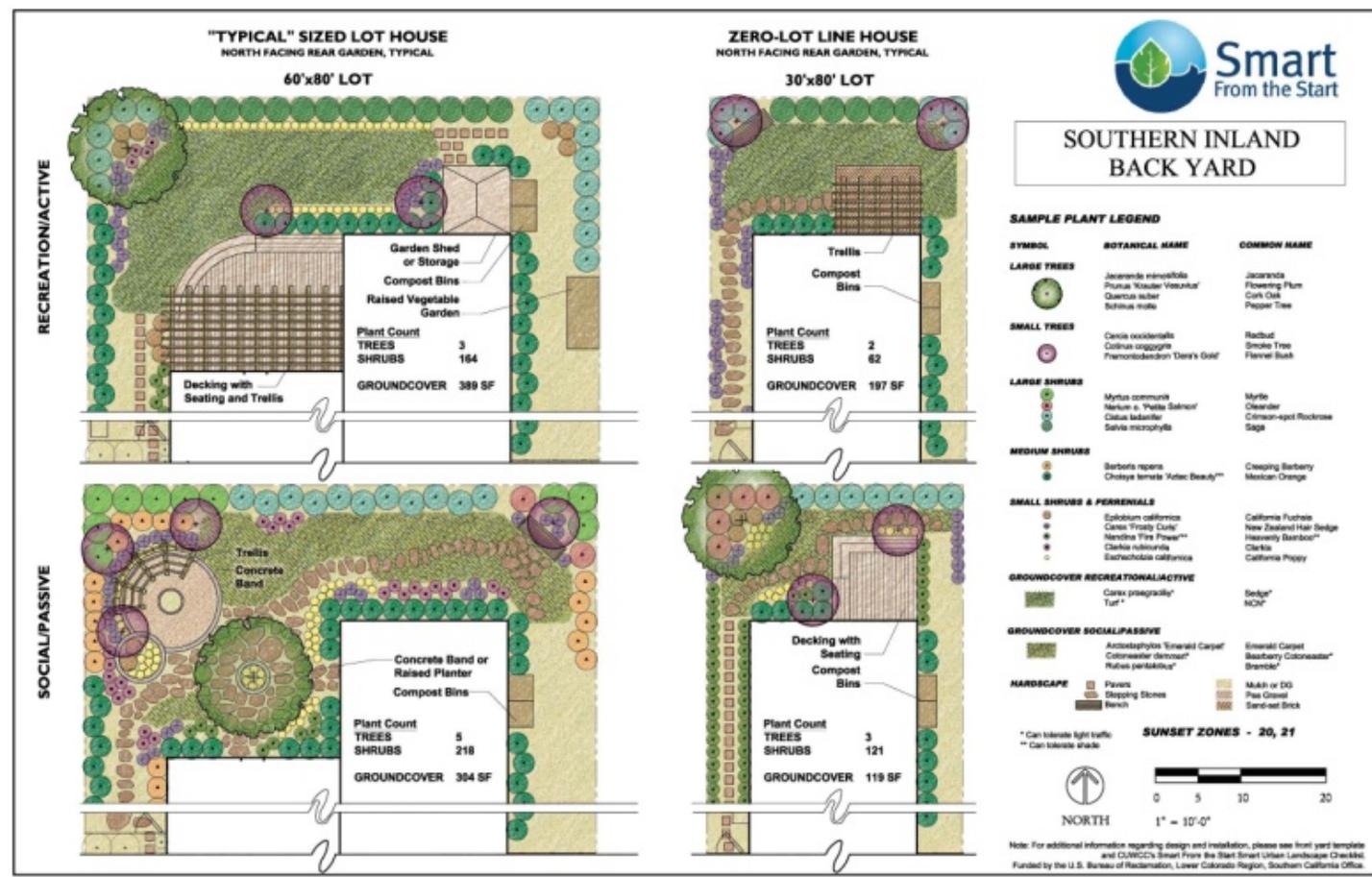
# Sample Front Yard





California  
Urban Water  
Conservation  
Council

# Sample Back Yard





## ***Irrigation Designs include:***

- **Separate hydrozones, micro-climates**
- **Deep root watering for trees**
- **Estimated water use**
- **Projected rain water collection**
- **Graywater potential for a minimum of 2 showers a day**
- **Base irrigation schedule for established plant material**





***Smart Landscape  
materials available at:***

**CUWCC website:**

**[www.cuwcc.org](http://www.cuwcc.org)**

**<http://www.h2ouse.org/>**



***Thank you for your attention!***  
***For more information, contact:***

**Chris Brown, Executive Director**

**[chris@cuwcc.org](mailto:chris@cuwcc.org)**

**916.552.5885**

**or Marsha Prillwitz,**

**[marsha@cuwcc.org](mailto:marsha@cuwcc.org)**

**Council's new address (10/26/09):**

**716 Tenth Street, Ste. 200,  
Sacramento, CA 95814**