

# Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Revisions

California Water Commission  
Sacramento, California  
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# Executive Order B-29-15

## April 1, 2015, Directive #11

- Directs DWR to revise the landscape Ordinance and increase water use efficiency standards through:
  - More efficient irrigation systems
  - Graywater usage
  - Onsite stormwater capture
  - Limiting the portion of landscapes that can be covered in turf
- Requires reporting by local agencies on implementation and enforcement by December 31, 2015



# Ordinance Background

- First adopted in 1992 and updated in 2009
- Applies primarily to new development and retrofit landscapes requiring a permit
- Uses a water allowance approach
- Applies to over 500 land use agencies (cities and counties) across the state
- Local agencies can adopt their own ordinance but must be “at least as effective” as the state’s



# Water Allowance Approach

Water allowance based on 3 critical factors:

1. Landscape area
2. Reference Evapotranspiration (Eto)
3. Evapotranspiration Adjustment Factor
  - Ratio of Plant Factor to Irrigation Efficiency

Recreational areas and areas irrigated with recycled water designated as special landscapes are provided increased water allowance



# Water Allowance permits flexibility in landscape design

Can meet 2009 ordinance requirement through a variety of water use plantings:

- 1/3 high, 1/3 medium or 1/3 low
- 1/2 high, 1/2 low
- All medium
- Or other combination that meets the water allowance



# Landscape Ordinance Revision Process

- April 1, 2015 Executive Order released
- April/May Stakeholder meetings
- June 12 Released Public Draft
- June 16 and 19 Public meetings
- June 26 Received written comment
- July 9 Released revised draft based on public comment
- July 15 California Water Commission



# DWR's Revised Draft Ordinance

- Lowers maximum applied water allowance
- Increases irrigation efficiency
- Provides graywater incentives
- Lowers landscape size threshold
- Increases onsite stormwater capture
- Specifies new reporting requirements



# Lowens Maximum Applied Water Allowance

- Lowered the percentage of Eto from:
  - 0.7 of ETo to 0.55 for residential
  - 0.7 of ETo to 0.45 for commercial, industrial and institutional
- Set default irrigation efficiency:
  - Drip at 0.81
  - Overhead spray at 0.75
  - Both are used in total water use calculation





Santa Rosa



Martinez - several CA Natives



# Increases irrigation efficiency

- Requires all irrigation devices to meet new national standard
  - All sprinklers have to meet or exceed distribution uniformity standard of 0.65



# Provides Graywater Incentives

- Simplified compliance requirements for landscapes where all the water demand is met through graywater or on site rainwater



# Lowers Landscape Size Threshold

- Lowered the landscape size threshold from 2,500 sq. ft. to 500 sq. ft. for new development projects
- Provided a checklist compliance approach for landscapes between 500 and 2,500 sq. ft.



# Increases Onsite Stormwater Capture

- Requires tillage and compost to increase water infiltration on site.
- Recommends implementation of stormwater best management practices



# Specifies New Reporting Requirements

- Local agency adoption by December 1, 2015
  - Regional ordinance adoption by February 1, 2016
- Local agency reporting by December 31, 2015
  - Reporting on regional ordinance adoption by March 1, 2016



# Landscape Stakeholder Committee

- DWR will form a landscape stakeholder committee in 2016 to discuss future revisions of the ordinance:
  - additional ways to improve and simplify the ordinance and discuss ways to improve local implementation



# Next Steps

## Following CWC adoption:

- Provide public notice of revised ordinance
- Submit to Office of Administrative Law as “file and print” submission
- Provide workshops and training in Sept/Oct
- Local agency reporting to DWR Dec. 2015 to March, 2016
- DWR to report to Water Board on ordinance implementation
- Convene stakeholder committee in 2016



# Questions?

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