

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Revisions

Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative
Quarterly Meeting
New City Hall
Sacramento, California
September 8, 2015

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Executive Order B-29-15

April 1, 2015, Directive #11

- Directs DWR to revise the landscape Ordinance to:
 - Increase efficiency standards
 - Require reporting on adoption and implementation by local land use agencies



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



Process

- April 1, 2015 Executive Order released
- April/May Stakeholder meetings
- June Released Public Draft for comment
- July 15 California Water Commission approves revised ordinance
- August 10 Submitted to Office of Administrative Law (File and Print)
- September ?? OAL sends ordinance to Secretary of State



Revised Ordinance-

- Lowers maximum applied water allowance
- Lowers landscape size threshold
- Specifies new reporting requirements



Lowers Maximum Applied Water Allowance

- Residential allows for 25% turf
- Commercial, industrial and institutional requirements limit turf except where used for specific function





Santa Rosa



Martinez - several CA Natives



Size Threshold

- landscape size threshold lowered from 2500 sq. ft to 500 sq. ft.
- Checklist compliance approach provided for landscapes between 500 and 2500 sq. ft.



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



Outreach and Training

- Guidance document released October 1
- 8 workshops across the state in October



Landscape Stakeholder Committee

- DWR will form a landscape stakeholder committee in 2016 to discuss future revisions of the ordinance



Other Urban WUE Programs

- August 12 State Turf Replacement and Toilet Rebates Available
Turf: www.water.ca.gov/turf
Toilets: www.water.ca.gov/toiletretrofit
- Oct 2015 Draft Guidelines for CalConserve Loan Program



Contact Information

DWR WUE Landscape Webpage:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/>

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