

September 2008

State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of
Water Resources



F.Y.I.



NEW MODEL ORDINANCE AVAILABLE SOON TO CITIES & COUNTIES

MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Landscape water conservation offers more potential for water savings than any other action that California residents can take. To help achieve these savings, the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is updating an existing regulation, the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (California Code of Regulations, Title 23 Section 490 – 495). This rulemaking action is authorized by Sections 65595 and 65596 of the “*Water Conservation in Landscaping Act*” (Assembly Bill 1881 or Chapter 559, Statutes of 2006). The text of the proposed regulation reflects improvements for landscape and irrigation design plans, irrigation technologies, and water management for achievable water savings to reduce water demand and waste.

What does this new regulation mean to cities and counties?

1. ADOPT

- DWR is scheduled to adopt the updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance by January 1, 2009
- Each local agency (cities and counties including charter cities or charter counties) is required by state law to adopt the updated Model Ordinance or adopt its own local landscape ordinance that is at least as effective by January 1, 2010.
- If a local agency does not take any action, the updated Model Ordinance adopted by DWR shall take effect as of January 1, 2010 and have the same force and effect, as if adopted by the local agency.
- A local agency is required, not later than January 31, 2010, to notify the DWR as to whether the local agency is subject to the DWR’s updated model ordinance and, if not, to submit to the DWR a copy of the water efficient landscape ordinance adopted by the local agency.

2. IMPLEMENT & ENFORCE

- All local agencies are required to implement and enforce the Model Ordinance or their own adopted ordinance and, where applicable, may require coordination with local area water suppliers.

When is the next public comment period?

The new model ordinance is nearly completed. The draft ordinance was released for a 45-day public comment period on February 8, 2008. Since then, we have revised the ordinance to respond to suggestions received. DWR expects to notice the next public comment period this fall. This notice will release the modified text of the proposed regulation for public comment focused only on changes made since the initial review period.

Where do I find more information?

Visit the website:

<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/landscape/ord/ord.cfm>

Contact staff:

Judy Colvin
jcolvin@water.ca.gov
(916) 651-9847

Gwen Huff
ghuff@water.ca.gov
(916) 651-9672

Simon Eching
seching@water.ca.gov
(916) 651-9667

Kent Frame
kframe@water.ca.gov
(916) 651-7030

Join the mailing list: Send an email to mweo@water.ca.gov

Did you know?

- California is experiencing 2 years of drought and water reserves are extremely low.
- California's new plan is to achieve a 20 percent reduction in per capita water use statewide by 2020.
- DWR released the updated *Urban Drought Guidebook* to help local agencies prepare for the possibilities of another dry year or water supply interruptions.
- Water efficient landscapes and irrigation systems offer more potential water savings than any other single water conservation measure!
- The *Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance* will help local agencies and their communities save water.