



County of San Diego

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Date: November 30, 2015

To: Interested Parties

From: Joseph Farace, Group Program Manager, Advance Planning Division

Subject: PUBLIC REVIEW of San Diego County Code related to Amendments to the Water Conservation in Landscaping Ordinance (POD 15-003)

On April 1, 2015 the Governor issued an Executive Order pertaining to the existing drought conditions facing California. As part of the Executive Order a number of State requirements were created to address and mitigate the on-going emergency drought condition. One of the requirements directed the State's Department of Water Resources (DWR) to amend their Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance (MWELo). The County is now required to adopt the State's amended MWELo or adopt a County ordinance as effective as the State's ordinance at conserving water. The County is proceeding with amendments to our local ordinance to address the State's amendment to their MWELo.

Notable changes to the County's ordinance to reflect the State's MWELo include:

- Ordinance applicability – threshold for when landscaping requirements are to be applied must be amended. The State has reduced the threshold for applicability to include all new development projects with a landscaped area equal to or greater than 500 s.f. Current thresholds contained in the County's Landscape Ordinance are 1,000 s.f. for multi-family, commercial and industrial and 5,000 s.f. for single family residential.
- Water budgets – water budget formulas have been revised.
- Irrigation Systems – required use of more efficient irrigation systems.
- Graywater Use – promotes use of graywater.
- Stormwater capture – rainwater retention requirements added.
- Prescriptive Compliance Checklist - assist in streamlining review process in some instances.
- Monitoring and reporting – updated monitoring and reporting requirements.

Attached is a revised draft ordinance in "strikeout/underline" format. This document is also available on the PDS website at http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/Public_Review_Non-CEQA.html.

Written (or email) comments on the proposed draft ordinance must be received no later than **Friday, January 15, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.** Please forward comments or questions to Joseph Farace at (858) 694-3690 or by e-mail at joseph.farace@sdcounty.ca.gov.

To view the documents associated with the Water Conservation in Landscaping Ordinance, go to http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/Landscape-Ordinance_Design_Review_Manual.html.