

WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE DESIGN MANUAL

5. All surface area of water features shall be included in a high water use hydrozone.
6. Temporarily irrigated areas shall be included in a low water use hydrozone.
7. Artificial turf shall be included in a low water use hydrozone.
8. After the appropriate hydrozone category has been established, the ETWU calculation will utilize a plant factor for each hydrozone category as shown on the Worksheet in Appendix C.

SECTION 3 **PRESCRIPTIVE COMPLIANCE OPTION**

A. General Information

1. Those projects eligible to utilize and electing to use the Prescriptive Compliance Option, as per PDS form 410 in appendix B, to comply with the County of San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances, the following items are mandatory and must be submitted to the Director of Planning & Development Services.
2. Any project with an aggregate landscape area from 500 square feet to below 2,500 square feet per section 86.703 (b).
3. Any lot or parcel within a project with less than 2,500 square feet of aggregate landscaped area that meets the Estimated Total Water Use (ETWA) requirements, found in Section 86.713 entirely with treated or untreated graywater, or through stored rainwater captured on site. These projects need only comply with the requirements of Section 86.722(a)(5) & (6). See (sec. 86.702 (b)).
4. The Prescriptive Compliance Option Plan consists of:

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- a. Project Date
 - b. Project applicant
 - c. Project address
 - d. Total landscape area (square feet), including a breakdown of turf and plant material
 - e. Project type (new/modified, public, private, cemetery, homeowner installed, developer installed)
 - f. Project water type for irrigation (eg., potable, recycled, well, greywater) and identify the local retail water purveyor if the applicant is not served by a private well
 - g. Contact information for the project applicant and property owner
 - h. **Applicant signature and date with statement, "I agree to comply with requirements of the Prescriptive Compliance Option contained in Title 8, Division 6, Chapter 7, of San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances related to water conservation in landscaping."**
5. Incorporate compost at a rate of at least four cubic yards per 1,000 square feet to a depth of six inches into landscape area (unless contra-indicated by a soil test in which prescribed volumes of compost can be modified as approved by the Director).

B. Plant material

Plant material shall comply with the following:

- a. Residential areas shall install climate adapted plants that require occasional, little or no summer water (average WUCOLS plant factor 0.3) for 75% of the plant area excluding edibles and areas using recycled water.

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- b. Non-residential areas shall install climate adapted plants that require occasional, little or no summer water (average WUCOLS plant factor 0.3) for 100% of the plant area excluding edibles and areas using recycled water.
- c. **A minimum of three (3") layer of mulch shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except in turf areas, creeping or rooting groundcovers, or direct seeding applications where mulch is contraindicated. Prescribed depths of mulch and location may be modified as approved by the Director.**

C. Turf

Turf shall comply with the following:

- a. Turf shall not exceed 25% of the landscape area in residential areas, and there shall be no turf in non-residential areas.
- b. Turf shall not be planted on sloped areas which exceed a slope of 1 foot vertical elevation change for every 4 feet of horizontal length.
- c. Turf is prohibited in parkways less than 10 feet wide, unless the parkway is adjacent to a parking strip and used to enter and exit vehicles. Any turf in parkways must be irrigated by sub-surface irrigation or by other technology that creates no overspray or runoff.

D. Irrigation

Irrigation systems shall comply with the following:

- a. Automatic irrigation controllers are required and must use evapotranspiration or soil moisture sensor data and utilize a rain sensor. Controller shall be type which does not lose programming data in the event the primary power source is interrupted.

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- b. Pressure regulators shall be installed on the irrigation system to ensure dynamic pressure of the system.
- c. Manual shut-off valves (such as a gate valve, or butterfly valve) shall be installed as close as possible to the point of connection of the water supply.
- d. All irrigation emission devices must meet the requirements set in the ANSI standard, ASABE/ICC 802-2014. **"Landscape Irrigation Sprinkler and Emitter Standard."** All sprinkler heads installed in the landscape must document a distribution uniformity low quarter of 0.65 or higher using the protocol defined in ASABE/ICC 802-2014.
- e. Areas less than ten (10) feet in width in any direction shall be irrigated with subsurface irrigation or other means that produces no runoff or overspray.
- f. Non-residential projects with landscape areas of 1,000 square feet or more, a private submeter(s) to measure landscape water use shall be **installed. Flow sensor's connected to an automatic irrigation controller** may also function as a landscape water meter.

E. Final Inspection

1. At the time of final inspection, the permit applicant must provide the owner of the property with a certificate of completion, certificate of installation, irrigation schedule and a schedule of landscape and irrigation maintenance.
2. Certificate of Completion Using Prescriptive Compliance Option shall be submitted, as per PDS Form 407A in Appendix G, provided by the Director of Planning & Development Services upon completion of the landscape project, verifying that the landscaping and irrigation were installed as required in the approved Water Use Application Using Prescriptive Compliance Option, that all composting and mulch were implemented and

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HOW QUICKLY DOES YOUR SOIL ABSORB WATER?

1. Dig a hole 6 inches deep by 6 inches across.
2. Fill the hole with water and let it stand for one hour to saturate the soil.
3. Refill the hole with water. Measure depth of the water with a ruler.
4. Let stand one hour. Then measure depth of the water.
5. The difference in the water level between step 3 and step 4 is the amount of water absorbed by your soil in an hour.

installed, and that all plant materials meet average WUCOLS plant factor of 0.3.

3. Upon submittal of the signed Certificate of Completion Using Prescriptive Compliance Option, the County Landscape Architect shall verify compliance prior to issuance of Water Use Authorization. Prior to any occupancy or use of the premises in reliance with a building permit, the landscaping shall be installed and certified.

SECTION 4 CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A. Landscape Certificate of Completion

1. A Certificate of Completion shall be submitted as per PDS Form 407 for all those projects that have an approved Landscape Documentation Package.
2. The applicant shall provide this information to the Director of Planning & Development Services within 10 days after installation of the landscaping and irrigation system.
3. An irrigation schedule and a maintenance schedule must also be submitted. In addition, a soil management report will also be required if one was not submitted as part of the Landscape Documentation Package. See Appendix D for the Certificate of Completion form and the required documentation to be submitted, verified, and approved prior to obtaining use of the property
4. The Certificate of Completion certifies that the landscaping and irrigation system have been installed in compliance with the approved Landscape Documentation Package or Prescriptive Compliance Option Plan and that the irrigation system functions as designed and approved.