



Department of Conservation and Development

HOW TO DEVELOP USING THE NEW MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE 2015 REVISION

Please familiarize yourself with the **NEW** State's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance located at <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/> for the entire text of the NEW Model Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance (MWELO). **This handout does not contain the entire ordinance, so it is to your benefit to read the ordinance in its entirety.** For additional information, you can also visit www.dwr.ca.gov/.

Applicability: After **December 1, 2015**, this ordinance shall apply to all of the following landscape projects:

- (1) New construction projects (including but not limited to: single-family residences, multi-family residences, and commercial projects) with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 500 square feet requiring a building permit;
- (2) Newly rehabilitated landscapes projects with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet requiring a building permit;
- (3) Existing landscapes limited to Sections 493 (Provisions for existing landscapes), 493.1 (Irrigation audit, irrigation survey and irrigation water use analysis) and 493.2 (Water waste prevention); and
- (4) Cemeteries. Recognizing the special landscape management needs of cemeteries, new and rehabilitated cemeteries are limited to Sections 492.4 (Water efficient landscape worksheet), 492.11 (Landscape and irrigation maintenance schedule) and 492.12 (Irrigation audit, irrigation survey, and irrigation water use analysis); and existing cemeteries are limited to Sections 493, 493.1 and 493.2.

How to Apply for your Water Efficient Landscape Application Review:

1. To obtain the application, go to www.cccounty.us/apc. Click on Planning Applications and scroll down to *Water Efficient Landscape Application* and the *Important Notice to Applicant*. Applications can also be picked up at the Application and Permit Center (APC) located at 30 Muir Rd., Martinez.
2. Plans required should include the following:
 - a. Water efficient landscape worksheet;
 - b. Landscape Design Plan (one set);
 - c. Irrigation Design Plan (one set);
 - d. Grading Plan (one set)
 - e. Soil Management Report (one set)
 - i. If significant mass grading is not planned, submit soil analysis report together with the items above. If significant grading is planned, submit the soil analysis as part of Certificate of Completion.
 - f. Owner of the property must sign the application. If Assessor information does not reflect the current owner, a copy of the recorded deed will be required to verify ownership.
3. A deposit of \$500 is required at time of submittal. Additional fees based on time and materials will be charged if staff costs exceed base deposit.
4. This application can be submitted at the APC any day Monday-Friday between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

If this ordinance is applicable to your project, a building permit cannot be applied for until the Landscaping Application has been completed, reviewed, and approved by planning.