The Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Landscape Graphic Courtesy of Sonoma County Water Agency, Ali Davidson Landscape Architect, David Bunnett Illustrator
Why the update?

- AB 325  1990 Water Conservation in Landscaping Act
- AB 2717  2004 - need to look at this again
- CUWCC Landscape Task Force  2005-  100+ members
- AB 1881  2006  update the MO
AB 1881 Statutes of 2006

- DWR Updates the Model Ordinance adopted in 1993 (AB 325)
  - Follow provisions in AB1881
  - Follow recommendations of Landscape Task Force
  - Consider and Respond to stakeholder comments

- Review 30+ local ordinances
  - What were cities and counties doing already?
Major provisions required by AB 1881

- Minimize overspray and runoff
- Group plants in hydrozones
- Well-adapted plants
- Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA) water budget
- Increase opportunities for stormwater retention
- Irrigation scheduling based on CIMIS or other reliable ETo data or soil moisture sensors
- Soil assessment and amendment (if amendment is indicated)
- Grading to promote healthy plant growth
- Mulch is required in most plantings
- Require use of recycled water where available
- Education of water users
- Fire prevention
- Sustainable landscape maintenance practices
What does your local agency use?

- State Model-69
- State Model now, local later-71
- Local Ordinance-193

Always check with local agency-some are more stringent than State Model Ordinance
Local Agencies with a Local Ordinance

- Roseville
- Sacramento
- Rancho Cordova
- Colfax
- Amador City
- Ione
- Sacramento Co

The rest are using the Model Ordinance by choice or default
Cal Green –2011
Non-Residential Mandatory

- Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance water budget and provisions
- Weather based irrigation controllers with rain sensing technology
  - Or
- Soil Moisture sensing irrigation controllers

- Dedicated landscape submeters at 1000’ sq ft
  landscape area (1000’- 5000’)
  - Installed by applicant’s contractor or water purveyor
Dedicated Landscape Meters

- Water Code section 535
- In AB 1881, separate from the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance
- Beginning January 1, 2008
- New water service connections with 5000 square feet of irrigated landscape except:
  - SFH
  - Agricultural users

- Installed by water purveyor
Cal Green –2011

Non-Residential Voluntary Tiers

- 60%, 55% or 50% of ETo
- No potable water use
- Restore or protect native vegetation
- Graywater systems
- Rainwater collection
- Green roofs
Cal Green-2011 Residential

- Mandatory
  - Irrigation controllers that use weather based or soil moisture based sensing technology
  - Rain shutoff sensors
- Voluntary
  - Tier 1 Water Budget at 65% of local ETo
  - Tier 2 Water Budget at 60% of local ETo
Local ETo x Landscape Area X ET Adjustment Factor (0.7) x 0.62 = gallons of water

CIMIS

Use our online calculator
MAWA-

- Eureka: $32.9'' \times 5000 \text{ sqft} \times 0.7 \times 0.62 = 71,393$ gallons per year

- Roseville: $52.2'' \times 5000 \text{ sqft.} \times 0.7 \times 0.62 = 113,274$ gallons per year

- El Centro: $81.7'' \times 5000 \text{ sqft.} \times 0.7 \times 0.62 = 177,289$ gallons per year
Plant Factor (0.5) in the Water Budget is based on 1/3 high, 1/3 moderate and 1/3 low water using plants—as compared to ETo.

- Cool season turf—high-water use
- Warm season turf – Hybrid Bermuda, UC Verde and other buffalo grasses, native blends, -moderate to low

*Use WUCOLS, if the plant is on the list-
*if not, obtain the plant factor from the grower or other source
Recreational Turf

Special Landscape Area
SLA
ETAF 1.0
(0.7 + 0.3) = 1.0
Irrigation Design Plan

- Slopes
- Shut off sensors
- Pressure regulation
- Right equipment for plants
- 24” overhead irrigation setback
Check Valves and Swing Joints
Narrow planting areas

No Spray Allowed

Non-Spray OK
Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) encouraged as Landscape Design Features - meet both objectives
Unintended Consequences

- WUCOLS-application of information and plant lists
- Permitting Issues
- Differences in Terminology and interpretation by local agencies
  - Green Industry, planning dept., building dept., regulatory agencies, public works
- Irrigation Auditors
  - IA, availability of auditors
492.4(b)(1) The plant factor used shall be from WUCOLS......

- Not intended to limit to plants listed in WUCOLS
- If a selected plant is not in WUCOLS a plant factor from another source may be used in the water budget.
Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor

“certified landscape irrigation auditor” means a person certified to perform landscape irrigation audits by an accredited academic institution, a professional trade organization or other program such as the US Environmental Protection Agency’s WaterSense irrigation auditor certification program and Irrigation Association’s Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor program.

- QWEL (SF Bay Area)
- CLCA Water Manager Program (with auditing component)
- CLIA (Irrigation Association)
Next Steps

- Correct non-substantial issues and improve clarity
- Update of WUCOLS-support UCCE
- Interactive Guidebook
Next Steps

- Collaborative process for Guidebook or other outreach
  - DWR welcomes input
  - Create solutions
  - Links to other resources
Contact Information

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