



CITY OF
LA MESA
JEWEL of the HILLS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

January 11, 2010

Mr. Simon Eching
California Department of Water Resource
Water Use and Efficiency Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: City of La Mesa, Ordinance No. 2009-2805
Water Efficient Landscape Regulations

Dear Mr. Eching,

The City of La Mesa, California is in compliance with the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 (AB1881) because the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2009-2805 on December 8, 2009 establishing water efficient landscape regulations for the City of La Mesa. A copy of Ordinance No. 2009-2805 is attached for your information.

Thank you for your attention. Please feel free to contact me directly at 619.667.1187 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bill Chopyk, AICP
Director of Planning & Development Services

Attachment

COPY

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-2805

AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 14.29 TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO
ESTABLISH WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill AB-1881 requires the State Department of Water Resources to update the State of California model landscape ordinance to promote water conservation;

WHEREAS, cities are required to adopt the State model water efficient landscape ordinance or an ordinance that is at least as effective by January 1, 2010;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance is to establish specific requirements, rules and standards for landscape and irrigation installations and incidental matters relating to water conservation measures;

WHEREAS, landscapes are essential to the quality of life by providing areas for active and passive recreation and enhance the environment by cleaning air and water, preventing erosion, offering fire protection, and replacing ecosystems;

WHEREAS, water supplies are limited and subject to increasing demand;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of La Mesa to promote the conservation and efficient use of water and to prevent the waste of this valuable resource;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of La Mesa to work cooperatively with water purveyors;

WHEREAS, adoption of the Water Efficient Landscape Regulations is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act, Class 7;

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby finds that the requirements set forth in this ordinance are reasonably necessary because of local climatic conditions, including low annual precipitation and extensive periods of drought, which have made it necessary to import the majority of the water used in this area;

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby also finds that this ordinance implements the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act. The requirements in this ordinance reduce water use associated with irrigation of outdoor landscaping by setting a maximum amount of water to be applied to landscaping and by designing, installing and maintaining water efficient landscapes consistent with the water allowance. The provisions of this ordinance are equivalent to and at least as effective as the provisions of the state Model Landscape Ordinance because the calculation of maximum applied water allowance and the resulting restrictions on irrigation and process are similar, though tailored to the City of La Mesa's existing regulatory procedures; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code section 65595, the City of La Mesa finds that the Ordinance is at least as effective in conserving water as the State model ordinance based upon evidence in the legislative record.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: A new Chapter 14.29 is hereby added to the La Mesa Municipal Code to read as follows:

"Chapter 14.29
Water Efficient Landscape Regulations

Sections:

- 14.29.010 Purpose.
- 14.29.020 Definitions.
- 14.29.030 Applicability.
- 14.29.040 Administration and Enforcement.
- 14.29.050 Landscape Documentation Package.
- 14.29.060 Soil Management Report.
- 14.29.070 Planting and Irrigation Plans.
- 14.29.080 Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet.
- 14.29.090 Grading Design Plan.
- 14.29.100 Irrigation Schedule.
- 14.29.110 Maximum Applied Water Use.
- 14.29.120 Estimated Total Water Use.
- 14.29.130 Adjustment to Landscaped Area for Non-Vegetated Area.
- 14.29.140 Regulations Applicable to Use of Turf on Landscaped Areas.
- 14.29.150 Projects With Model Homes.
- 14.29.160 Recycled Water.
- 14.29.170 Landscaping and Irrigation Installation.
- 14.29.180 Landscaping and Irrigation Maintenance.
- 14.29.190 Certificate of Completion.
- 14.29.200 Waste Water Prevention.

14.29.010 Purpose.

The State Legislature determined in the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act (the "Act"), Government Code sections 65591 et seq., that the State's water resources are in limited supply. The Legislature also recognized that while landscaping is essential to the quality of life in California, landscape design, installation, maintenance and management must be water efficient. The general purpose of this chapter is to establish water use standards for landscaping in the City of La Mesa that implement the 2006 development landscape design requirements established by the Act. Consistent with the Legislature's findings the purpose of this ordinance is to:

- (a) Promote the values and benefits of landscapes while recognizing the need to utilize water and other resources as efficiently as possible.
- (b) Establish a structure for planning, designing, installing, maintaining and managing water efficient landscapes in new construction.
- (c) Promote the use, when available, of tertiary treated recycled water, for irrigating landscaping.

(d) Use water efficiently without waste by setting a Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA) as an upper limit for water use and reduce water use to the lowest practical amount.

(e) Encourage water users of existing landscapes to use water efficiently and without waste.

14.29.020 Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply to this chapter:

(a) "Automatic irrigation controller" means an automatic timing device used to remotely control valves that operate an irrigation system. Automatic irrigation controllers shall schedule irrigation events using either evapotranspiration (ET_o) (weather-based) or moisture sensor data.

(b) "Building permit" means a permit to engage in a certain type of construction on a specific location.

(c) Certified landscape irrigation auditor means a person certified to perform landscape irrigation audits by an accredited academic institution, a professional trade organization or other accredited certification program.

(d) "Developer" means a person who seeks or receives permits for or who undertakes land development activities' who is not a single family homeowner. Developer includes a developer's partner, associate, employee, consultant, trustee or agent.

(e) "Director" means the Community Development Director or anyone to whom the Director has designated or hired to administer or enforce this chapter.

(f) "Discretionary permit" means any permit requiring a decision making body to exercise judgment prior to its approval, conditional approval or denial.

(g) "Estimated total water use" (ETWU) means the estimated total water use in gallons per year for a landscaped area.

(h) "ET adjustment factor" (ETAF) means a factor that when applied to reference ET_o, adjusts for plant water requirements and irrigation efficiency, two major influences on the amount of water that is required for a healthy landscape.

(i) "Evapotranspiration" (ET_o) means the quantity of water evaporated from adjacent soil and other surfaces and transpired by plants during a specified time period. "Reference evapotranspiration" means a standard measurement of environmental parameters which affect the water use of plants. ET_o is given in inches per day, month, or year and is an estimate of the ET_o of a large field of four-inches to seven-inches tall, cool season turf that is well watered. Reference ET_o is used as the basis of determining the MAWA so that regional differences in climate can be accommodated.

(j) "Grading" means any importation, excavation, movement, loosening or compaction of soil or rock.

(k) "Hardscape" means any durable surface material, pervious or non-pervious.

(l) "Homeowner-provided landscaping" means landscaping installed either by a private individual for a single family residence or installed by a licensed contractor hired by a homeowner.

(m) "Hydrozone" means a portion of the landscape area having plants with similar water needs. A hydrozone may be irrigated or non-irrigated.

(n) "Invasive species" means species of plants not historically found in California that spread outside cultivated areas and may damage environmental or economic resources.

(o) "Irrigation audit" means an inspection which includes an in depth evaluation of the performance of an irrigation system conducted by a certified landscape irrigation auditor. An irrigation audit may include, but is not limited to, inspection, system tune up, system test with distribution uniformity or emission uniformity, reporting overspray or runoff that causes overland flow and preparation of an irrigation schedule.

(p) "Irrigation efficiency" means the measurement of the amount of water beneficially used divided by the water applied. Irrigation efficiency is derived from measurements and estimates of irrigation system characteristics and management practices.

(q) "Landscaped area" means an area with outdoor plants, turf and other vegetation. A landscaped area includes a water feature either in an area with vegetation or that stands alone. A landscaped area may also include design features adjacent to an area with vegetation when allowed under section 15. A landscaped area does not include the footprint of a building, decks, patio, sidewalk, driveway, parking lot or other hardscape that does not meet the criteria in section 15. A landscaped area also does not include an area without irrigation designated for non-development such as designated open space or area with existing native vegetation.

(r) "Landscape design manual" means the manual, approved by the City of La Mesa that establishes specific design criteria and guidance to implement the requirements of this chapter.

(s) "Low head drainage" means a sprinkler head or other irrigation device that continues to emit water after the water to the zone in which the device is located has shut off.

(t) "Low volume irrigation" means the application of irrigation water at low pressure through a system of tubing or lateral lines and low volume emitters such as drip lines or bubblers.

(u) "Mass grading" means the movement of soil per the grading ordinance.

(v) "Maximum Applied Water Allowance" (MAWA) means the maximum allowed annual water use for a specific landscaped area based on the square footage of the area, the ETAF and the reference ETo.

(w) "Mulch" means an organic material such as leaves, bark, straw or inorganic mineral materials such as rocks, gravel or decomposed granite left loose and applied to the soil surface to reduce evaporation, suppress weeds, moderate soil temperature or prevent soil erosion.

(x) "Overspray" means the water from irrigation that is delivered outside an area targeted for the irrigation and makes contact with a surface not intended to be irrigated.

(y) "Pervious" means any surface or material that allows the passage of water through the material and into underlying soil.

(z) "Plant factor" means a factor when multiplied by the ETo, estimates the amount of water a plant needs.

(aa) "Public water purveyor" means a public utility, municipal water district, municipal irrigation district or municipality that delivers water to customers.

(bb) "Recycled water" means waste water that has been treated at the highest level required by the California Department of Health Services for water not intended for human consumption. "Tertiary treated recycled water," means water that has been through three levels of treatment including filtration and disinfection.

(cc) "Runoff" means water that is not absorbed by the soil or landscape to which it is applied and flows from the landscaped area.

(dd) "Special landscaped area" means an area of the landscape dedicated to edible plants, an area irrigated with recycled water, or an area dedicated as turf area within a park, sports field or golf course where turf provides a passive or active recreational surface.

(ee) "Subsurface irrigation" means an irrigation device with a delivery line and water emitters installed below the soil surface that slowly and frequently emit small amounts of water into the soil to irrigate plant roots.

(ff) "Transitional area" means a portion of a landscaped area that is adjacent to a natural or undisturbed area and is designated to ensure that the natural area remains unaffected by plantings and irrigation installed on the property.

(gg) "Turf" means a groundcover surface of mowed grass.

(hh) "Water feature" means a design element where open water performs an aesthetic or recreational function. A water feature includes a pond, lake, waterfall, fountain, artificial streams, spa and swimming pool. Constructed wetlands used for onsite wastewater treatment or storm water best management practices are not water features.

(ii) "WUCOLS III" means Water Use Classification of Landscape Species and refers to the Department of Water Resources 1999 publication or the most current version.

14.29.030 Applicability.

(a) This chapter shall apply to the following projects which require a building permit or a discretionary permit:

(1) A project for an industrial, commercial, institutional or multi-family residential use where the landscaped area is greater than or equal to 2,500 square feet.

(2) Developer installed residential and common area landscapes where the total landscaped area for the development is greater than or equal to 2,500 square feet.

(3) A new single family residence with homeowner provided landscaping, where the landscaped area is greater than or equal to 5,000 square feet.

(4) A model home that includes a landscaped area.

(5) A public agency project that contains a landscaped area 2,500 square feet or more.

(6) A rehabilitated landscape for an existing industrial, commercial, institutional, public agency or multifamily use where a building permit or discretionary permit is being issued and the applicant is installing or modifying 2,500 square feet or more of landscaping.

(b) This chapter shall not apply to the following:

(1) A registered local, State or federal historical site.

(2) An ecological restoration project that does not require a permanent irrigation system.

(3) A mined land reclamation project that does not require a permanent irrigation system.

(4) A botanical garden or arboretum, open to the public.

(5) Any single-family residence that is being rebuilt after it was destroyed due to a natural disaster, such as a fire, earthquake, or hurricane.

14.29.040 Administration and Enforcement.

(a) The Director shall administer and enforce this chapter.

(b) The Director shall provide guidance to applicants on how to comply with the requirements of this chapter.

14.29.050 Landscape Documentation Package.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) building permit applications for projects subject to Section 14.29.030 shall include a landscape documentation package that complies with the provisions of this chapter.

(b) An applicant for a building permit for a single family residence with a landscaped area less than 5,000 square feet is not required to submit a landscape documentation package with the permit application.

(c) The landscape documentation package required by subsection (a) shall contain the following:

(1) A soil management report and plan that complies with Section 14.29.060 that analyzes the soil within each landscaped area of the project and makes recommendations regarding soil additives.

(2) Planting and irrigation plans that comply with Section 14.29.070 that describe the landscaping and irrigation for the project.

(3) A water efficient landscape worksheet that complies with Section 14.29.080 that calculates the MAWA and the ETWU for the project.

(4) A grading design plan that complies with Section 14.29.090 that describes the grading of the project. If the project applicant has submitted a grading plan with the application for the project, the Director may accept that grading plan in lieu of the grading design plan required by this subsection if the grading plan complies with Section 14.29.090.

14.29.060 Soil Management Report.

(a) The soil management report required by Section 14.29.050 (C) (1) shall be prepared by a licensed landscape architect, licensed civil engineer, licensed architect or other landscape professional appropriately licensed by the state and shall contain the following information:

(1) An analysis of the soil for the proposed landscaped areas of the project that includes information about the soil texture, soil infiltration rate, pH, total soluble salts, sodium, percent organic matter.

(2) Recommendations about soil amendments that may be necessary to foster plant growth and plant survival in the landscaped area using efficient irrigation techniques.

(b) When a project involves mass grading of a site the applicant shall submit the soil management report that complies with subsection (a) above with the certificate of completion required by Section 14.29.190.

(c) The soil management report shall include information regarding proposed soil amendments and mulch:

(1) The report shall identify the type and amount of mulch for each area where mulch is applied. Mulch shall be used as follows:

(i) A minimum two-inch layer of mulch shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces in each landscaped area except in turf areas, creeping or rooting ground covers or direct seeding applications where mulch is contraindicated.

(ii) Stabilizing mulch shall be applied on slopes.

(iii) The mulching portion of seed/mulch slurry in hydro-seeded applications shall comply with subsection (a) above.

(iv) Highly flammable mulch material shall not be used.

(2) The report shall identify any soil amendments and their type and quantity.

14.29.070 Planting and Irrigation Plans.

(a) The planting and irrigation plans required by Section 14.29.050 shall be prepared by a licensed landscape architect, licensed civil engineer, licensed architect or other landscape professional appropriately licensed by the state. The plans shall:

(1) Include the MAWA for the plans, including the calculations used to determine the MAWA. The calculations shall be based on the formula in Section 14.29.110.

(2) Included the ETWU for the plans, including the calculations used to determine the ETWU. The calculations shall be based on the formula in Section 14.29.120.

(3) Include a statement signed under penalty of perjury by the person who prepared the plan that provides, "I am familiar with the requirements for landscape and irrigation plans contained in the City of La Mesa Water Efficient Landscape Regulations (LMMC Chapter 14.29). I have prepared this plan in compliance with those regulations. I certify that the plan implements those regulations to provide efficient use of water."

(4) Demonstrate compliance with best management practices required by the City of La Mesa Storm Water Management and Discharge Control Ordinance (LMMC Chapter 7.18).

(5) Address fire safety issues and demonstrate compliance with State and City of La Mesa requirements for defensible space around buildings and structures and shall avoid the use of fire prone vegetation.

(b) The planting plan shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The plan shall include a list of all vegetation by common and botanical plant name, which exists in the proposed landscaped area. The plan shall state what vegetation will be retained and what will be removed.

(2) The plan shall include a list of all vegetation by common and botanical plant name which will be added to each landscaped area. No invasive plant species shall be added to a landscaped area. The plan shall include the total quantities by container size and species. If the applicant intends to plant seeds, the plan shall describe the seed mixes and applicable purity and germination specifications.

(3) The plan shall include a detailed description of each water feature that will be included in the landscaped area.

(4) The plan shall be accompanied by a drawing showing on a page or pages, the specific location of all vegetation, retained or planted, the plant spacing and plant size, natural features, water features, and hardscape areas. The drawing shall include a legend listing the common and botanical plant name of each plant shown on the drawing.

(5) All plants shall be grouped in hydrozones and the irrigation shall be designed to deliver water to hydrozones based on the moisture requirements of the plant grouping. A hydrozone may mix plants of moderate and low water use or mix plants of high water use with plants of moderate water use. No high water use plants shall be allowed in a low water use hydrozone. The plan shall also demonstrate how the plant groupings accomplish the most efficient use of water.

(6) The plan shall identify areas permanently and solely dedicated to edible plants.

(7) The plan shall demonstrate that landscaping when installed and at maturity will be positioned to avoid obstructing motorists' views of pedestrian crossings, driveways, roadways and other vehicular travel ways. If the landscaping will require maintenance to avoid obstructing

motorist's views, the plan shall describe the maintenance and the frequency of the proposed maintenance.

(8) The plan shall avoid the use of landscaping with known surface root problems adjacent to a paved area, unless the plan provides for installation of root control barriers or other appropriate devices to control surface roots.

(9) Plants in a transitional area shall consist of a combination of site adaptive and compatible native and/or non-native species. No invasive species shall be introduced or tolerated in a transitional area. The irrigation in a transitional area shall be designed so that no overspray or runoff shall enter an adjacent area that is not irrigated.

(10) On a project other than a single-family residence, the plan shall identify passive and active recreational areas.

(c) The Irrigation Plan shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The plan shall show the location, type and size of all components of the irrigation system that will provide water to the landscaped area, including the controller, water lines, valves, sprinkler heads, moisture sensing devices, rain switches, quick couplers, pressure regulators, and backflow prevention devices.

(2) The plan shall show the static water pressure at the point of connection to the public water supply and the flow rate in gallons, the application rate in inches per hour and the design operating pressure in pressure per square inch for each station.

(3) The irrigation system shall be designed to prevent runoff, overspray, low-head drainage and other similar conditions where irrigation water flows or sprays onto areas not intended for irrigation. The plan shall also demonstrate how grading and drainage techniques promote healthy plant growth and prevent erosion and runoff.

(4) The plan shall identify each area irrigated with recycled water.

(5) The plan shall provide that any slope greater than 25 percent will be irrigated with an irrigation system with a precipitation rate of .75 inches per hour or less to prevent runoff and erosion. As used in this chapter, 25 percent grade means one foot of vertical elevation change for every four feet of horizontal length. An applicant may employ an alternative design if the plan demonstrates that no runoff or erosion will occur.

(6) The plan shall provide that all wiring and piping under a paved area that a vehicle may use, such as a parking area, driveway or roadway, will be installed inside a PVC conduit.

(7) The plan shall provide that irrigation piping and irrigation devices that deliver water, such as sprinkler heads, shall be installed below grade if they are within 24 inches of a vehicle or pedestrian use area. The Director may allow on-grade piping where landform constraints make below grade piping infeasible.

(8) The plan shall provide that only low volume or subsurface irrigation shall be used to irrigate any vegetation within 24 inches of an impermeable surface unless the adjacent impermeable surfaces are designed and constructed to cause water to drain entirely into a landscaped area.

(9) The irrigation system shall provide for the installation of a manual shutoff valve as close as possible to the water supply. Additional manual shutoff valves shall be installed between each zone of the irrigation system and the water supply.

(10) The irrigation system shall provide that irrigation for any landscaped area will be regulated by an automatic irrigation controller.

(11) The irrigation system shall be designed with a landscape irrigation efficiency necessary to meet the MAWA.

(12) The plan shall describe each automatic irrigation controller the system uses to regulate the irrigation schedule and whether it is a weather based system or moisture detection system. The plan shall depict the location of electrical service for the automatic irrigation controller or describe the use of batteries or solar power that will power valves or a smart controller.

14.29.080 Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet.

The water efficient landscape worksheet required by Section 14.29.050 (c) (3) shall be prepared by a licensed landscape architect, licensed civil engineer, licensed architect, or other landscape professional appropriately licensed by the state and shall contain the following:

(a) A hydrozone information table that contains a list of each hydrozone in the landscaped area of the project and complies with the following requirements:

(1) For each hydrozone listed, the table shall identify the plant types and water features in the hydrozone, the irrigation methods used, the square footage and the percentage of the total landscaped area of the project that the hydrozone represents.

(2) The plant types shall be categorized as turf, high water use, moderate water use or low water use.

(b) Water budget calculations, which shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The plant factor used shall be from WUCOLS III. The plant factor shall be 0.1 for very low water use plants 0.3 for low water use plants, 0.5 for moderate water use plants and 0.8 for high water use plants. A plan that mixes plants in a hydrozone that require a different amount of water shall use the plant factor for the highest water using plant in the hydrozone.

(2) Temporarily irrigated areas shall be included in the low water use hydrozone. Temporarily irrigated as used in this chapter means the period of time when plantings only receive water until they become established.

(3) The surface area of a water feature, including swimming pools, shall be included in a high water use hydrozone.

(4) The calculations shall use the formula for the MAWA in Section 14.29.110 and for the ETWU in Section 14.29.120.

(5) Each special landscaped area shall be identified on the worksheet and the area's water use calculated using an ETAF of 1.0.

14.29.090 Grading Design Plan.

The grading design plan required by Section 14.29.050 shall be prepared by a California licensed civil engineer, licensed landscape architect, licensed architect, or other landscape professional appropriately licensed by the state and shall comply with following requirements:

(a) The grading on the project site shall be designed for the efficient use of water by minimizing soil erosion, runoff and water waste, resulting from precipitation and irrigation.

(b) The plan shall show the finished configurations and elevations of each landscaped area including the height of graded slopes, the drainage pattern, pad elevations, finish grade and any storm water retention improvements.

14.29.100 Irrigation Schedule.

The irrigation schedule shall be prepared by a licensed landscape architect, licensed civil engineer, licensed architect or other landscape professional appropriately licensed by the state and provide the following information:

(a) A description of the automatic irrigation system that will be used for the project.

(b) The ETo data relied on to develop the irrigation schedule, including the source of the data.

(c) The time period when overhead irrigation will be scheduled and confirm that no overhead irrigation shall be used between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

(d) The parameters used for setting the irrigation system controller for watering times for:

(1) The plant establishment period.

(2) Established landscaping.

(3) Temporarily irrigated areas.

(4) Different seasons during the year.

(e) The consideration used for each station for the following factors:

(1) The days between irrigation.

(2) Station run time in minutes for each irrigation event, designed to avoid runoff.

(3) Number of cycle starts required for each irrigation event, designed to avoid runoff.

(4) Amount of water to be applied on a monthly basis.

(5) The root depth setting.

(6) The plant type setting.

- (7) The soil type.
- (8) The slope factor.
- (9) The shade factor.

14.29.110 Maximum Applied Water Use.

(a) A landscape project subject to this chapter shall not exceed the MAWA. The MAWA for a landscape project shall be determined by the following calculation:

$$\text{MAWA} = (\text{ETo})(0.62)[0.7 \times \text{LA} + 0.3 \times \text{SLA}].$$

(b) The abbreviations used in the equation have the following meanings:

- (1) MAWA = Maximum Applied Water Allowance in gallons per year.
- (2) ETo = Evapotranspiration in inches per year.
- (3) 0.62 = Conversion factor to gallons per square foot.
- (4) 0.7 = ET adjustment factor for plant factors and irrigation efficiency.
- (5) LA = Landscaped area includes special landscaped area in square feet.
- (6) 0.3 = the additional ET adjustment factor for a special landscaped area (1.0 - 0.7 = 0.3).
- (7) SLA = Portion of the landscaped area identified as a special landscaped area in square feet.

14.29.120 Estimated Total Water Use.

(a) An applicant for a project subject to this chapter shall calculate the ETWU for each landscaped area and the entire project using the following equation:

$$(1) \text{ETWU} = (\text{ETo})(0.62)(\text{PF} \times \text{HA} / \text{IE} + \text{SLA}).$$

(b) The abbreviations used in the equation have the following meanings:

- (1) ETWU = Estimated total water use in gallons per year.
- (2) ETo = Evapotranspiration in inches per year.
- (3) 0.62 = Conversion factor to gallons per square foot.
- (4) PF = Plant factor from WUCOLS.
- (5) HA = Hydrozone Area in square feet. Each HA shall be classified based upon the data included in the landscape and irrigation plan as high, medium or low water use.
- (6) IE = Irrigation Efficiency of the irrigation method used in the hydrozone.

(7) SLA = Special landscaped area in square feet.

(c) The ETWU for a proposed project shall not exceed the MAWA.

14.29.130 Adjustment to Landscaped Area for Non-Vegetated Area.

Rock and stone or pervious design features, such as decomposed granite ground cover that are adjacent to a vegetated area may be included in the calculation of the MAWA and ETWU provided the features are integrated into the design of the landscape area and the primary purpose of the feature is decorative.

14.29.140 Regulations Applicable to Use of Turf on Landscaped Areas.

The following regulations shall apply to the use of turf on a project subject to this chapter:

(a) Only low volume or subsurface irrigation shall be used for turf in a landscaped area:

(1) On a slope greater than 25 percent grade where the toe of the slope is adjacent to an impermeable hardscape.

(2) Where any dimension of the landscaped area is less than six feet wide.

(b) On a commercial, industrial, institutional or multi-family project, no turf shall be allowed on a center island median strip or on a parking lot island.

(c) A ball field, park, golf course, cemetery and other similar use shall be designed to limit turf in any portion of a landscaped area not essential for the operation of the facility.

(d) No turf shall be allowed in a landscaped area that cannot be efficiently irrigated, such as avoiding runoff or overspray.

14.29.150 Projects With Model Homes.

A person who obtains a permit to construct a single family residential development that contains a model home or homes shall provide a summary of this chapter to each adult visitor that visits a model home. If an adult visitor is accompanied by one or more adults during the visit only one set of written materials is required to be provided. Each model home shall provide an educational sign in the front yard of the model home visible and readable from the roadway that the home faces that states in capital black lettering at least two inches high on a white sign, "THIS MODEL HOME USES WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING AND IRRIGATION."

14.29.160 Recycled Water.

(a) A person who obtains a permit for a project that is subject to this chapter shall use recycled water for irrigation when tertiary treated recycled water is available from the water purveyor who supplies water to the property for which the City of La Mesa issues a permit.

(b) A person using recycled water shall install a dual distribution system for water received from a public water purveyor. Pipes carrying recycled water shall be purple.

(c) A person who uses recycled water under this section shall be entitled to an ETAF of 1.0.

(d) This section does not excuse a person using recycled water from complying with all State and local laws and regulations related to recycled water use.

14.29.170 Landscaping and Irrigation Installation.

A person issued a landscape approval for a project, other than a single family residence where the landscaped area of the project is less than 5,000 square feet, shall install the approved landscaping and irrigation system before final inspection of the project.

14.29.180 Landscaping and Irrigation Maintenance.

(a) A property owner using water on property subject to a landscape approval other than a single-family residence with a total landscaped area less than 5,000 square feet, shall prepare a maintenance schedule for the landscaping and irrigation system on the project. The schedule shall provide for (1) routine inspection to guard against runoff and erosion and detect plant or irrigation system failure, (2) replacement of dead, dying and diseased vegetation, (3) eradication of invasive species, (4) repairing the irrigation system and its components, (5) replenishing mulch, (6) soil amendment when necessary to support and maintain healthy plant growth, (7) fertilizing, pruning and weeding and maintaining turf areas, and (8) maintenance to avoid obstruction of motorists' view. The schedule shall also identify who will be responsible for maintenance.

(b) After approval of a landscape plan, the owner is required to:

(1) Maintain and operate the landscaping and irrigation system on the property consistent with the MAWA.

(2) Maintain the irrigation system to achieve efficiency that meets or exceeds the MAWA.

(3) Replace broken or malfunctioning irrigation system components with components of the same materials and specifications, their equivalent or better.

(4) Ensure that when vegetation is replaced, replacement plantings are representative of the hydrozone in which the plants were removed and are typical of the water use requirements of the plants removed, provided that the replaced vegetation does not result in mixing high water use plants with low water use plants in the same hydrozone.

14.29.190 Certificate of Completion.

Each person issued a landscape approval, other than a single family residence with a total landscaped area less than 5,000 square feet, shall submit:

(a) A signed certificate of completion, under penalty of perjury, on a form provided by the City of La Mesa within 10 days after installation.

(1) The certificate shall include a statement verifying that the landscaping and irrigation were installed as allowed in the approved landscape and irrigation plan, all approved soil amendments were implemented, the installed irrigation system is functioning as designed and

approved, the irrigation control system was properly programmed in accordance with the irrigation schedule, and the person operating the system has received all required maintenance and irrigation plans.

(2) Where there have been significant changes to the landscape plan during the installation of landscaping or irrigation devices or irrigation system components, the professional of record for the landscape design shall submit "as built" plans that show the changes.

(3) The certificate shall be signed by the professional of record for the landscape design.

(b) An irrigation schedule that complies with Section 14.29.100, that describes the irrigation times and water usage for the project.

(c) A landscaping and irrigation system maintenance schedule that complies with Section 14.29.180.

(d) A soil management report that complies with Section 14.29.060, if the applicant did not submit the report with the landscape documentation package.

14.29.200 Waste Water Prevention.

(a) No person shall use water for irrigation that due to runoff, low head drainage, overspray or other similar condition, water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, structures, walkways, roadways or other paved areas.

(b) No person whose landscape is subject to a landscape approval pursuant to this chapter shall apply water to the landscape in excess of the MAWA."

SECTION 2: The City Clerk is hereby directed to file a copy of this Ordinance with the State of California Department of Water Resources, pursuant to Government Code Section 65593.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance shall be effective 30 days after its adoption and the City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and cause the same to be published at least once in the *East County Californian/La Mesa Forum* within 15 days of its adoption.

INTRODUCED AND READ at a Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, held the 24th day of November 2009, and thereafter PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular meeting of said City Council held the 8th day of December 2009, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Councilmembers Allan, Arapostathis, Ewin, Sterling and Mayor Madrid

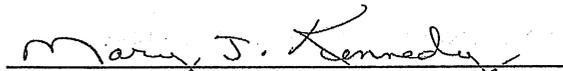
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

APPROVED:

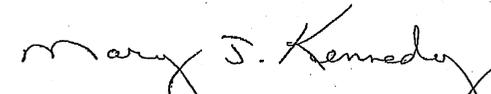

ARTHUR E. MADRID, Mayor

ATTEST:


MARY J. KENNEDY, CMC, City Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, MARY J. KENNEDY, City Clerk of the City of La Mesa, California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 2009-2805, duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City on the date and by the vote therein recited and that the same has been duly published according to law.


MARY J. KENNEDY, CMC, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)