



Updating the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Background

In response to California's severe on going drought, the Governor released Executive Order (EO) B-29-15 on April 1, 2015, which included actions that will promote water conservation and make California more drought-resilient.

In California, about half of the urban water is used for landscape irrigation. Substantial water savings can be gained by proper landscape design, installation and maintenance. To capture water savings in this sector, the Governor, in the Executive Order, directed the California Department of Water Resources (Department) to revise the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Model Ordinance). This revision will increase water efficiency standards for new and retrofitted landscapes.

AB 325 (1990) directed the Department to develop a Model Efficient Landscape Ordinance. The Model Ordinance was adopted in 1992 and became effective in 1993. The Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 directed the Department to revise the ordinance. By January 1, 2010, local agencies were able to adopt the Model Ordinance or craft an ordinance to fit local conditions, as long as the provisions are just as effective as the Model Ordinance in regard to water conservation.

Implementation

Planned Revisions

The EO directed the Department to revise the 2009 Model Ordinance to provide for more efficient irrigation systems, greywater usage, onsite storm water capture, and to limit the portion of landscapes that can be covered in turf. The EO also directs the Department to revise the Model Ordinance to require local land use agencies to report on the implementation and enforcement of the Model Ordinance by December 31, 2015.

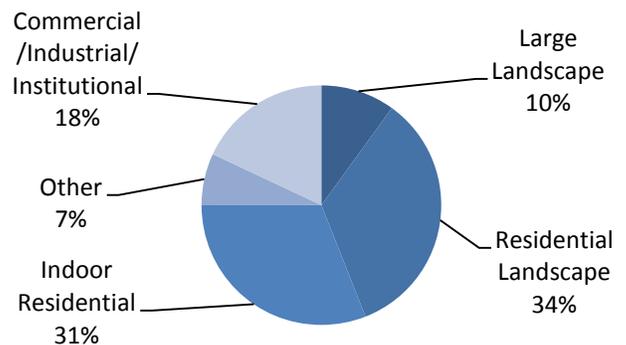
How We Will Do It

During April and May 2015, the Department will receive input from stakeholders. In mid-June, a public draft of the Model Ordinance will be released, followed by a two week comment period. Two public meetings, one in northern California and one in southern California, will be held during this time to provide an overview of the Model Ordinance updates and receive comments. Comments will be considered and a final version of the updated Model Ordinance will be presented to the California Water Commission on July 15, followed by Department adoption shortly thereafter.

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Statewide Urban Water-Use: Twelve-Year Average, 1998-2010



Water Plan Update, 2013.