Background

- Intent: Reduce outdoor water use by establishing statewide water conservation requirements on new landscape construction and renovations.


- This update to the 2010 ordinance came into effect 12/1/15*
Highlights of the 2015 update to WELO

• **Applicability – Permitted projects**
  - 500 sf for new construction
  - 2,500 sf for renovations

• **Prescriptive Path to Compliance (<2,500 sf)**

• **Teeth:**
  - Reporting requirements for implementing jurisdictions
  - CALGreen requirements (Section 4.304)

• **Lower Water Budgets**

• **Compost and Mulch Requirements**

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Adoption

• **Cities had several options for adoption:**
  - Adopt by reference
  - Adopt in detail
  - Amend or adopt a new ordinance to meet requirements
  - Do nothing and it would come into effect
  - Single agency or regional ok

• **Cities were required to report to DWR by December 31, 2015 on adoption (or March 1, 2016 for regional)**
Reporting

- Next report due Jan 31, 2017 and will include:
  - Number and types of projects subject to the ordinance
  - Total area (in square feet or acres) subject to the ordinance
  - Number of new housing starts, new commercial projects, and landscape renovations
  - *The procedure for review of projects subject to the ordinance
  - *The actions taken to verify compliance- Is a plan check performed; if so, by what entity? Is a site inspection performed; if so, by what entity? Is a post-installation audit required; if so, by whom?
  - *Enforcement measures
  - *The challenges to implementing and enforcing the ordinance
  - *The educational, training, and other needs to properly apply the ordinance
- Will necessitate new tracking protocols

Implementation

- Requires interdepartmental coordination and communication
  - Conditions of development - Planning
  - Plan Check – permitting, planning, city landscape architect
  - Field inspection—building inspectors, city landscape architects
- Challenges:
  - in-house expertise reviewing plans
  - staff time
  - other?
Strategies to improve compliance

- **Make it straightforward for submitters**
  - Introduce requirements early—entitlements, conditions of approval
  - Provide a Landscape Checklist (CALBO templates available)
  - Create a dedicated, easy to find webpage with process, checklists, and resources
  - Tools:
    - WUCOLS
    - Water Calculator
    - Reference ET for your city
    - Sources of compost and mulch
    - Link to irrigation auditors

Strategies to facilitate enforcement

- **Is this expertise available?**
- **If not, start simple with a checklist for reviewers:**
  - Is all documentation present?
  - Smart controller?
  - MAWA > ETWU?
  - Do the math—is it correct?
  - Correct ETo?
  - Is there a lawn? Pool? Water feature?
  - Look for compost and mulch in notes
  - Require proof of irrigation audit before sign-off and occupancy
  - Field inspection
Tools and Resources

- Department of Water Resources: [www.water.ca.gov](http://www.water.ca.gov)
- StopWaste: [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org)
- CalBO: [www.calbo.org](http://www.calbo.org)
- Irrigation Association: [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org)
- Compost and Mulch Marketplace: [www.lawntogarden.org](http://www.lawntogarden.org)

Thank you!

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