



Public Hearing Item 20:

Consideration of First Reading or Ordinance No. 172, An Ordinance of the MPWMD Amending Regional Water Efficient Landscape Requirements in Compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 2.7, California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Ordinance No. 172

- First reading
- Requested by Technical Advisory Committee
- Creates stand-alone rule for water efficient landscape requirements
- Implements landscape requirements regionally
 - Currently Rule 142 requirement

California Requirement

- AB 325 (1990) Water Conservation in Landscaping Act
- AB 1881 (2006 - Laird)
 - First MWELo adopted on September 10, 2009
 - Agencies to implement MWELo or create their own ordinance that was at least as stringent by January 1, 2010
 - MPWMD adopted regional MWELo November 16, 2009 (Ordinance 141, Rule 142, Water Efficiency Standards)
- California Drought: Governor ordered DWR to update the MWELo (2015)
 - Revised MWELo adopted by State (9/15/2015)
- All agencies to implement changes by December 1, 2015

California's Water Efficient Landscape Requirements

- Establishes a structure for designing, installing, maintaining, and managing water efficient landscapes
- Reduces landscape water use to the lowest practical amount
 - Sets an upper use limit
- Promotes the values and benefits of landscapes while recognizing the need to use water and other resources efficiently

Which Landscapes are Effected?

- Projects requiring a grading permit, building permit or design approval with an associated new aggregate Landscape Area equal to or greater than five hundred (500) square feet
- Rehabilitated Landscape projects > 2,500 square feet
- Landscape Manual provides guidance, formulas, and form
 - Landscape Areas between 500 and 2,5000 square feet can elect to use “prescriptive compliance”

What is Required?

- Landscape design plan
 - Water efficient plants in hydrozones
 - Compost and mulch
- Irrigation plan
 - Efficient design
- Water budget
- Grading plan (when applicable)
 - Keep water on-site
 - Reviewed by Jurisdiction

Previous Board Action

- Updated MWELO was included in Ord 170 (March 2016)
- Board deferred action
 - Referred to Legislative Advocacy Committee
 - Directed Technical Advisory Committee discuss implementation of the MWELO on either a regional or Jurisdiction level and to determine how to achieve consistency among the jurisdictions in compliance with the regulations

Follow Up

- TAC requested regional implementation by MPWMD
- District is collaborating with Monterey County and Jurisdictions for uniformity
- Staff training completed
- Ongoing coordination with Jurisdictions

Recommendation

- Staff recommends the Board approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 172
- Board will consider adoption of the ordinance and the Landscape Manual at the August 15 meeting.
 - Landscape Manual is being prepared in collaboration with Monterey County
 - Review by Jurisdictions prior to August meeting

Thank you