

## Provided by Municipal Water District of Orange County

### Differences between Landscape Ordinances:

The purpose of this document is to summarize the differences between the 2009 State Model Ordinance and 2015 State Model Ordinance and the 2015 State Model Ordinance and OC Model Ordinance.

#### 2009 State Model Ordinance and 2015 State Model Ordinance –

- 7) Requires reporting of implementation and enforcement to DWR by Dec. 31, 2015 and annually thereafter
  - DWR shall provide information on local compliance to the State Board who may consider further regulations and enforcement to promote compliance
  - DWR to provide technical assistance and grant funding priority for agencies in compliance
- 8) Landscape Threshold Subject to Ordinance
  - New construction reduced to 500 ft<sup>2</sup>
  - Previous size thresholds
    - a) 2500 ft<sup>2</sup> for public and private development
    - b) 5000 ft<sup>2</sup> for owner built custom homes
  - Rehabilitated landscape projects
    - a) 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup> requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check, or design review
- 9) Efficient Irrigation Systems - Additional requirements
  - Dedicated landscape water meters or sub meters (in alignment with CalGreen)
  - Residential landscape areas over 5000 ft<sup>2</sup>
  - Non-residential areas over 1000 ft<sup>2</sup>
  - Minimum width of turf irrigated with overhead irrigation from 8 to 10 feet
  - Areas of turf below this threshold must be irrigated with subsurface drip or other technology
  - Pressure regulators and master valves
  - Sprinkles must meet specific standards (i.e. PR ≤ 1.0 in/hr or DULQ ≥ 0.75)
- 10) Flow sensors that detect and report high flow conditions due to broken pipes, etc.  
 Graywater Usage (§492.15) new section
  - Encourages the installation of graywater systems to provide on-site landscape irrigation water
  - All graywater systems shall conform to any applicable local ordinance standards and the California Plumbing Code (Title 24, Part 5, Chapter 16)
- 11) Soil Preparation
  - This addition of organic matter and tillage increases the ability of soil to capture and hold stormwater.
- 12) Stormwater Management (§492.16) revised section
  - To maximize water retention and infiltration
  - Planted landscape areas required to have friable soil
- 13) Compost application
  - 6 in deep at a rate of 4 yd<sup>3</sup>/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> (unless contraindicated by soil test)
- 14) Limiting the Portion of Landscapes that can be Covered in Turf
  - The landscape water budget (Maximum Applied Water Allowance) was reduced from 70% of the reference evaporation (ET<sub>o</sub>) to:
    - a) 50% for residential areas
      - This reduces the area that can be planted to turf in the residential landscapes from 33% to 25%
      - 40% of ET<sub>o</sub> for non-residential areas

- This does not provide enough water to permit the planting of turf.
- Turf installation is permitted when it is used for specific functions and purposes
  - a) The landscape ordinance water budget provides extra water allowances for functional turf (sports, recreational, picnic areas and areas irrigated with recycled water)
  - b) No turf will be allowed in street medians or in parkways Unless the parkways is next to a parking strip and a flat surface is required to enter and exit vehicles.

2015 State Model Ordinance and OC Model Ordinance –

- The OC Model ordinance breaks out the State Model Ordinance into an Ordinance document and a Guidelines document.
  - This allows for easier refinements to the guidelines over time without the need to readopt the Ordinance Document each time.
  - These documents are templates which include a variety of callout boxes to help the city identify areas of local concern or variability.
- More refined definitions to provide better clarity of technical terms.
- The OC model provides many more types of spray irrigation applications with normally accepted distribution uniformities in both Lower Quartile and Lower Half calculations.
  - We provide a table with LQ, LH and ultimately, the Irrigation Efficiency. The purpose for all three is to allow a designer to know the irrigation efficiency regardless of how a manufacturer provides the value.
  - The OC model is more realistic with standard overhead spray Irrigation Efficiency than the State but also provides more options that are higher than the minimum State value of .75.
- Expanded Evapotranspiration zones from three cities representing all of OC to a comprehensive listing of cities. This listing can be found within the Appendix Section of the Guidelines Document. Additionally MWDOC and AACOC have partnered with Signature Control System, Inc. to assist city staff by providing access to evapotranspiration data at the zip code level.
- The OC Model is accompanied by an Excel worksheet to help designers and planners evaluate compliance utilizing a unified approach. This worksheet can be found at: <http://www.ocwatersmart.com/commercial/resources>
- The OC model includes the following example documents as part of the Appendices within the Guidelines Document: Certification of Landscape Design, Certificate of Completion, and Inspection Affidavit.
- The inclusion of the Community Aesthetics Evaluation concept. While not subject to a permit, plan check or design review, the Community Aesthetics Evaluation may be performed to ensure the aesthetic standards of the community and irrigation efficiency intent is maintained.

Refer to the MWELo 2015 Revision Fact Sheet for more information at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/docs/MWELo%202015%20Revision%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>