



## **MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE (MWELO) PRESCRIPTIVE CHECKLIST**

**(For 500 - 2,500 square feet of new landscape area or aggregate new and rehabilitated landscape area OR  
2,500 square feet of rehabilitated landscape area)**

### **Plant Material (Title 23, Chapter 2.7, Appendix D (b) (3))**

- For residential areas, 75% of landscape, excluding edibles and areas using recycled water, shall consist of plants that average a WUCOLS plant factor of 0.3. WUCOLS plants database can be found online at: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/>
- For non-residential areas, 100% of the plants, excluding edibles and areas using recycled water, shall consist of plants that average a WUCOLS plant factor of 0.3.
- Pools and water features are included in landscape square footage for one-family and two-family dwellings
- The following WUCOLS plant factors shall be used in calculating the average WUCOLS plant factor:
  - Very low = .1
  - Low = .2
  - Moderate = .5
  - High = .85
- The following formula shall be used to calculate the average WUCOLS factor:  $[(\# \text{ of Very low water use plants} \times 0.1) + (\# \text{ of Low water use plants} \times 0.2) + (\# \text{ of Moderate water use plants} \times 0.5) + (\# \text{ of High water use plants} \times 0.85)] / \text{Total number of plants} = \text{WUCOLS average for project}$
- Include a landscape and irrigation design plan.
- Include square footages of new landscaping and rehabilitated landscaping.
- Include a plant list on the landscape plan that identifies all plant material by botanical names and common names, WUCOLS factor, Sunset and/or USDA Hardiness zone, and the total quantity of each plant.
  - The average spread of each tree shall be noted on the plant list.
- Add note to plans: "A minimum 3-inch layer of mulch shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except turf areas, creeping or rooting groundcovers, or direct seeding applications where mulch is contraindicated."

### **Turf (Title 23, Chapter 2.7, Appendix D (b) (4))**

- Turf is considered living plant material. MWELO regulations do not apply to artificial turf.
- Note areas of existing turf and new turf and the square footage of each.
- Add note to plans: "Turf shall not exceed 25% of the landscape area in residential areas."
- Add note to plans: "No turf permitted in non-residential areas."
- Add note to plans: "Turf not permitted on slopes greater than 25%."
- Add note to plans: "Turf is prohibited in parkways less than 10 feet wide."

### **Irrigation (Title 23, Chapter 2.7, Appendix D (b) (5))**

- The irrigation plans, at a minimum, shall contain the following:
  - Location and size of water meters for landscape (if a separate water meter is installed)
  - Location, type, and size of all components of the irrigation system, including, at a minimum, main and lateral lines
- Add note to plans: "Automatic weather-based or soil-moisture based irrigation controllers shall be installed on the irrigation system."
- Add note to plans: "Pressure regulators shall be installed on the irrigation system to ensure dynamic pressure of the system is within the manufacturer's recommended pressure range."

- Add note to plans: "Manual-shut-off valves shall be installed as close as possible to the point of connection of the water supply."
- Add note to plans: "Areas less than 10-feet in width in any direction shall be irrigated with subsurface irrigation or other means that produces no runoff or overspray."
- Add note to plans: "For non-residential projects with landscape areas of 1,000 square feet or more, private submeter(s) to measure landscape water use shall be installed."
- Add note to plans: "At the time of final inspection, the permit applicant must provide the owner of the property with a certificate of completion, certificate of installation, irrigation schedule of landscape and irrigation maintenance."
- Add note to plans: "Unless contradicted by a soils test, compost at a rate of a minimum of four cubic yards per 1,000 square feet of permeable area shall be incorporated to a depth of six inches into the soil."