

# City of Los Alamitos

## Agenda Report Ordinances

December 14, 2015  
Item No: 9B

**To:** Mayor Richard D. Murphy & Members of the City Council

**Via:** Bret M. Plumlee, City Manager

**From:** Steven A. Mendoza, Development Services Director

**Subject:** Introduce Ordinance No. 2015-13 – An Ordinance Establishing Water Efficient Landscape Standards and Adopt Resolution No. 2015-38 Adopting Implementation Guidelines

**Summary:** This item proposes a change to Section 13.05 of the City's Municipal Code, which would amend various Landscaping Standards regarding water efficient landscape regulations to meet the new statewide standards as stipulated in Governor Brown's Drought Executive Order (B-29-15). The Guidelines are incorporated by Resolution No. 2015-38 for ease of administering and amending at a later date if necessary.

### Recommendations:

1. Introduce, waive reading in full, and authorize reading by title only of Ordinance No. 2015-13, and set for second reading; and,
2. City Attorney Reisman read the title of Ordinance No. 2015-13, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 13.05 OF THE LOS ALAMITOS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE"; and
3. Adopt Resolution No. 2015-38, entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-13 PERTAINING TO WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE REGULATIONS.

## BACKGROUND

In 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 1881 (Laird, Water Conservation) amending the Water Conservation in the Landscape Act (Act). As part of AB 1881, cities were required to adopt a water efficient landscape ordinance. On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown signed Drought Executive Order (B-19-25) mandating substantial water reductions across the State of California, further regulating water conservation in landscaping.

As part of the Drought Executive Order (B-19-25), the Governor required that cities either adopt a State Model, a County Model, or create their own ordinance that is at least as effective as the State Model. Cities that choose to create and adopt their own ordinance must do so by December 1, 2015. Cities and Counties that choose to adopt the State or County Model must do so by February 1, 2016.

In response to the new landscape water efficiency requirements, a stakeholder group was formed under the leadership of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and the Orange County Division of the League of California Cities (the League). The goal of the stakeholder group was to update the previous Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance to be “at least as effective” as the State Model Ordinance in accordance with the new regulations required by Executive Order (B-19-25); while creating an ordinance to address the unique landscape and water usage in Orange County. Stakeholder meetings and technical writing sessions took place between July and October of 2015. The product of these sessions was an OC Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and Guidelines that represents the needs of local jurisdictions in Orange County. The OC Model and Guidelines comply with all the requirements set forth by AB 1881, as well as the Drought Executive Order (B-19-25), and are at least as effective as the State Model Ordinance.

## Discussion

Upon evaluation of the requirements of the new State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (State Model), notable differences between the new requirements and current regulations were identified, which include the following:

1. Square footage thresholds that trigger compliance with the ordinance have been reduced from 2,500 to 500 square feet for **new** developer-installed projects, public agency projects, private development, and homeowner-provided or homeowner-hired projects requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check, or design review.
2. Square footage thresholds that trigger compliance with the ordinance have been reduced from 5,000 to 2,500 square feet for **rehabilitated** landscaped areas, requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check or design review, whether installed prior to or after January 1, 2010 or after the adoption of this ordinance.

3. New or rehabilitated projects using treated or untreated graywater or rainwater capture on a site that has less than 2,500 square feet of landscape area and meets the lot or parcel's landscape water requirement (Estimated Total Water Use) entirely with the treated or untreated graywater or through stored rainwater capture on site is subject to lesser processing requirements.
4. Recommended action for on-site storm-water and dry weather best management practices including, but not limited to, grading impervious surfaces to drain into vegetation, incorporating catchment systems and infiltration beds, and other means to capture runoff.
5. A stricter "Maximum Applied Water Allowance" (MAWA) for an area based on a reduction in the Evapotranspiration Adjustment Factor (ETAF). The previous ETAF of 0.7 in all areas has been reduced to 0.55 for residential areas and 0.45 for non-residential areas. This equates to installing plants requiring less irrigation, i.e. California native species, rather than turf.
6. Water purveyors are encouraged to offer landscape surveys and/or incentive programs targeting landscape irrigation efficiency for new and existing landscapes.
7. More intensive irrigation plan requirements including, but not limited to, dedicated service meters, smart irrigation systems, flow restrictors, and limitations on overhead irrigation.
8. Prohibition on turf/grass in street medians and parkways.
9. New requirements for local agencies to report on implementation of the Ordinance. Specifically, local agencies responsible for administering individual ordinances shall report on their updated ordinance, while those agencies developing a regional ordinance shall report on their existing ordinance. Those agencies crafting a regional ordinance shall also report on their new ordinance by March 1, 2016. Subsequently, reporting for all agencies will be due by January 31st of each year. Reports shall be submitted to the Department of Water Resources.
10. New public education component to promote the efficient use of water in landscapes. The use of appropriate principles of design, installation, management, and maintenance that save water is encouraged in the community.

Upon review of the State Model by the stakeholder group, it was determined that there were instances of redundancy of requirements which were already in place in Orange County. In addition, there were some requirements of the State Model that could be simplified, yet still be as effective.

## **Differences Between the OC and State Models**

AB 1881, as amended by Drought Executive Order (B-19-25), requires local agencies to include justifications to any locally-approved alternatives to the State's Model that is as "equally effective" in conserving landscaping irrigation water. For deviations from the State Model, findings must be made in the ordinance to establish the County's and City's position and be in the record.

The OC Model does not deviate from the State Model in a significant way; rather, it streamlines the submittal requirements for new landscape installations and landscape rehabilitation projects. The following identifies the differences between the OC Model and the State Model and provides justifications for how the OC Model is "at least as effective" as the State Model.

- *Self Certification* – Allows for a licensed landscaped professional to self certify plans and removes the need for in-depth review by City Staff.
- *Separation of Ordinance and Guidelines* – The State Model includes all of the technical guidelines within the Ordinance. If adopted in this way, any minor changes to the guidelines would result in a zoning code amendment. The County Model separates the two functions into a streamlined and succinct Ordinance and an in-depth technical set of guidelines, creating a model that is "at least as effective" as the State Model.
- *Removal of Soil Management and Stormwater Management and Rain Water Management sections* – These sections were combined to streamline the document.
- *Removal of Recycled Water Section and Water Waste Prevention Section* – Section(s) incorporated by reference to defer to existing agency(s) code.
- *Removal of Effective Precipitation Section* – Considered optional in the State Model and was removed because annual effective precipitation of 12" in Orange County is not considered adequate for MAWA adjustment.
- *Removal of Environmental Review Section* – Section incorporated by reference to defer to existing agency code on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines.
- *Removal of Irrigation Audit, Irrigation Survey, and Irrigation Water Use Analysis Section* – The irrigation audit, survey, and water use analysis section from the State Model was incorporated into the Certificate of Completion process in the Orange County Model. The Certificate of Completion section requires a licensed landscaped professional to complete a certified landscape installation form in accordance with the Guidelines and in compliance with the Ordinance. This procedure is "at least as effective" as a onetime irrigation system audit report.

- *Removal of Reporting Section* – For local agencies to use as a reference for reporting on adoption of ordinance, not intended to be part of the Ordinance or guidelines.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the project has been determined to be exempt under Section 15307.

## **Fiscal Impact**

None

Prepared By:



Steven A. Mendoza  
Development Services Director

Approved By:



Bret M. Plumlee  
City Manager

- Attachments:* 1. *Ordinance No. 2015-13*  
2. *Resolution No. 2015-38 and Guidelines*

## ORDINANCE NO. 2015-13

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 13.05 OF THE LOS ALAMITOS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

**WHEREAS**, Governor Jerry Brown's Drought Executive Order No. B-29-15 mandates all local jurisdictions shall adopt a local water conservation ordinance at least as efficient in conserving water as the State Model standards established by the Department of Water Resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the waters of the State are of limited supply and are subject to ever increasing demands; and,

**WHEREAS**, the continuation of California's economic prosperity is dependent on the availability of adequate supplies of water for future uses; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the State to promote the conservation and efficient use of water and to prevent the waste of this valuable resource; and,

**WHEREAS**, landscapes are essential to the quality of life in California by providing areas for active and passive recreation and as an enhancement to the environment by cleaning air and water, preventing erosion, offering fire protection, and replacing ecosystems lost to development; and,

**WHEREAS**, landscape design, installation, maintenance, and management can and should be water efficient; and,

**WHEREAS**, Article X, Section 2 of the California Constitution specifies that the right to use water is limited to the amount reasonably required for the beneficial use to be served, and the right does not and shall not extend to waste or unreasonable method of use of water; and,

**WHEREAS**, current local design practices in new landscapes strive to achieve the intent of the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance water use goals; and,

**WHEREAS**, landscape plan submittal and review has been a long standing practice in the City of Los Alamitos; and,

**WHEREAS**, the average rainfall in Orange County is approximately 12 inches per year; and,

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 13.05 of the Los Alamitos Municipal Code establishes the provisions for landscape and irrigation standards for all zones; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the City Council to promote the reduction of, and efficient use of water in the City; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance has been drafted to meet the new requirements established in Governor Brown's Drought Executive Order (B-29-15) and at least as effective as the State Model; and,

**WHEREAS**, on December 14, 2015, the City Council of the City of Los Alamitos conducted a duly noticed public hearing regarding the Amendment; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance promotes water conservation efforts by requiring the installation of new landscape with an area of 500 square feet to be designed to not exceed the maximum applied water allowances; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance: (1) is consistent with, and furthers the goals of, the General Plan of the City of Los Alamitos, the requirements of the State Planning and Zoning Laws (California Government Code §§ 65000 *et seq.*), and in the interests of the general community welfare; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance was reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code section 21000 *et seq.*, the State CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations section 15000 *et seq.*, and the City Council has exercised its independent judgment and finds that the Ordinance is exempt from CEQA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City Council considered all applicable Staff reports and all public testimony and evidence presented at the public hearing; and,

**WHEREAS**, all legal prerequisites prior to the adoption of this Ordinance have occurred.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1: The City Council finds that all the facts, findings, and conclusions set forth above in this Ordinance are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2: Section 13.05.010 of the Los Alamitos Municipal Code is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

**"13.05.010 Purpose**

This Chapter establishes requirements and standards for landscaping and irrigation to:

- A. Enhance the appearance of development projects; reduce heat and glare; control soil erosion; conserve water; screen potentially incompatible land

uses; preserve the integrity of neighborhoods; improve air and water quality; and protect pedestrian and vehicular traffic and safety;

B. Promote the benefits of consistent landscape ordinances with neighboring local and regional agencies;

C. Promote the values and benefits of landscapes while recognizing the need to invest water and other resources as efficiently as possible;

D. Establish a structure for planning, designing, installing, maintaining, and managing water efficient landscapes in new construction and rehabilitated projects by encouraging the use of a watershed approach that requires cross-sector collaboration of industry, government, and property owners to achieve the many benefits possible;

E. Establish provisions for water management practices and water waste prevention for existing landscapes;

F. Use water efficiently without waste by setting a Maximum Applied Water Allowance as an upper limit for water use and reduce water use to the lowest practical amount; and

G. Encourage the use of economic incentives that promote the efficient use of water, such as implementing a budget-based tiered-rate structure, providing rebate incentives and offering educational programs.”

SECTION 3: Section 13.05.020 of the Los Alamitos Municipal Code is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

**A. Applicability.**

1. After December 1, 2015, and consistent with Executive Order No. B-29-15, this Chapter shall apply to all of the following landscape projects:

(a) New development projects with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 500 square feet requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check or design review;

(b) Rehabilitated landscape projects with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check, or design review;

(c) Existing landscapes when alterations or expansions to existing nonresidential development or residential projects are proposed, to the greatest extent feasible, as determined by the Director. The approval of a discretionary application for alterations or expansions to an existing nonresidential development or residential projects

may include conditions of approval requiring compliance with the requirements of this Chapter. This Chapter does not apply to changes of use or interior tenant improvements that do not require discretionary approval; and

- (d) Cemeteries. Recognizing the special landscape management needs of cemeteries, new and rehabilitated cemeteries are limited to the provisions for new construction or rehabilitated landscapes of the *Guidelines*, including landscape and irrigation maintenance schedule and irrigation audit, irrigation survey and irrigation water use analysis. Existing cemeteries are limited to the provisions for existing landscapes of the *Guidelines*, including irrigation audit, irrigation survey and irrigation water use analysis.

2. Any project with an aggregate landscape area of 2,500 square feet or less may comply with the performance requirements of this Chapter or conform to the prescriptive measures contained in Appendix A of the *Guidelines*.

3. For projects using treated or untreated graywater or rainwater captured on site, any lot or parcel within the project that has less than 2500 sq. ft. of landscape and meets the lot or parcel's landscape water requirement (Estimated Total Water Use) entirely with treated or untreated graywater or through stored rainwater captured on site is subject only to Appendix A, Section 5 of the *Guidelines*.

4. This Chapter does not apply to:

- (a) Registered local, state or federal historical sites;
- (b) Ecological restoration projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system;
- (c) Mined-land reclamation projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system; or
- (d) Existing plant collections, as part of botanical gardens and arboretums open to the public;
- (e) Single-family residential land uses with landscaped areas of less than 5,000 square feet that are not developer-installed are exempt;

5. Section 13.05.020.2 of this chapter shall apply to:

- a. All landscaped areas, whether installed prior to or after January 1, 2010; and
- b. All landscaped areas installed after the adoption of this ordinance.

## **B. Implementation Procedures.**

1. Prior to installation, a *Landscape Documentation Package* shall be submitted to the City for review and approval of all *landscape projects* subject to the provisions of this Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. Any *Landscape Documentation Package* submitted to the City shall comply with the provisions of the *Guidelines*.

2. The *Landscape Documentation Package* shall include a certification by a professional appropriately licensed in the State of California stating that the landscape design and water use calculations have been prepared by or under the supervision of the licensed professional and are certified to be in compliance with the provisions of this Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and the *Guidelines*.

a. Landscape and irrigation plans shall be submitted to the City for review and approval with appropriate water use calculations.

b. Water use calculations shall be consistent with calculations contained in the *Guidelines* and shall be provided to the local water purveyor, as appropriate, under procedures determined by the City.

3. Verification of compliance of the landscape installation with the approved plans shall be obtained through a Certification of Completion in conjunction with a Certificate of Use and Occupancy or Permit Final process, as provided in the *Guidelines*.

## **C. Landscape Water Use Standards.**

1. For applicable landscape installation or rehabilitation projects subject to Section 13.05.020 (A) of this Chapter, the *Estimated Applied Water Use* allowed for the *landscaped area* shall not exceed the *MAWA* calculated using an *ET adjustment factor* of 0.55 for residential areas and 0.45 for non-residential areas, exclusive of Special Landscape Areas. The ETAF for a landscape project is based on the plant factors and irrigation methods selected. The Maximum Applied Water Allowance is calculated based on the maximum ETAF allowed (0.55 for residential areas and 0.45 for non-residential areas) and expressed as annual gallons required. The Estimated Applied Water Use is calculated based on the plants used and irrigation method selected for the landscape design.

2. Irrigation of all *landscaped areas* shall be conducted in a manner conforming to the rules and requirements, and shall be subject to penalties and incentives for water conservation and water waste prevention as determined and implemented by the *local water purveyor* or as mutually agreed by *local water purveyor* and the local agency.

3. Irrigation systems for projects one acre or more in area shall use reclaimed water whenever reclaimed water is available to the site. Reclaimed water systems shall be subject to appropriate health standards. Recirculating water shall be used for any decorative water features.

SECTION 4: Section 13.05.050 of the Los Alamitos Municipal Code is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

*Delegation.* The City may delegate to, or enter into a contract with, a *local agency* to implement, administer, and/or enforce any of the provisions of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance on behalf of the City.

SECTION 5: Section 13.05.060 of the Los Alamitos Municipal Code is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

*“Aggregate landscape areas”* pertains to the areas undergoing development as one project or for production home neighborhoods or other situations where multiple parcels are undergoing development as one project, but will eventually be individually owned.

*“Applied water”* means the portion of water supplied by the irrigation system to the landscape.

*“Budget-based tiered-rate structure”* means tiered or block rates for irrigation accounts charged by the retail water agency in which the block definition for each customer is derived from lot size or irrigated area and the evapotranspiration requirements of landscaping.

*“Community Aesthetics Evaluation”* – 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.

*“Ecological restoration project”* means a project where the site is intentionally altered to establish a defined, indigenous, historic ecosystem.

*“Estimated Applied Water Use”* means the average annual total amount of water estimated to be necessary to keep plants in a healthy state, calculated as provided in the *Guidelines*. It is based on the *reference evapotranspiration* rate, the size of the landscape area, *plant water use factors*, and the relative *irrigation efficiency* of the irrigation system.

*“ET adjustment factor”* or *“ETAF”* is equal to the *plant factor* divided by the *irrigation efficiency factor* for a *landscape project*, as described in the *Guidelines*. The *ETAF* is calculated in the context of local *reference evapotranspiration*, using site-specific *plant factors* and *irrigation efficiency factors* that influence the amount of water that needs to be applied to the specific *landscaped area*. *ETAF* means a factor of 0.55 for residential areas and 0.45 for non-residential areas

that, when applied to reference evapotranspiration, adjusts for *plant factors* and *irrigation efficiency*, two major influences upon the amount of water that needs to be applied to the landscape. The *ETAF* for new and existing (non-rehabilitated) *special landscape areas* shall not exceed 1.0. The *ETAF* for existing non-rehabilitated landscapes is 0.8.

“*Guidelines*” refers to the Guidelines for Implementation of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, as adopted by the City Council by resolution (as it may be amended from time to time), which describes procedures, calculations, and requirements for *landscape projects* subject to this Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

“*Hardscapes*” means any durable material or feature (*pervious* and *non-pervious*) installed in or around a *landscaped area*, such as pavements or walls. Pools and other *water features* are considered part of the *landscaped area* and not considered *hardscapes* for purposes of this Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

“*Irrigation efficiency*” means the measurement of the amount of water beneficially used divided by the amount of water applied. *Irrigation efficiency* is derived from measurements and estimates of irrigation system characteristics and management practices. The *irrigation efficiency* for purposes of this Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance are 0.75 for overhead spray devices and 0.81 for drip systems.

“*Landscaped area*” means all the planting areas, *turf* areas, and *water features* in a landscape design plan subject to the *Maximum Applied Water Allowance* and *Estimated Applied Water Use* calculations. The *landscaped area* does not include footprints of buildings or structures, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, decks, patios, gravel or stone walks, other *pervious* or *non-pervious hardscapes*, and other non-irrigated areas designated for non-development (e.g., open spaces and existing native vegetation).

“*Landscape contractor*” means a person licensed by the State of California to construct, maintain, repair, install, or subcontract the development of landscape systems.

“*Landscape Documentation Package*” means the documents required to be provided to the City for review and approval of landscape design projects, as described in the *Guidelines*.

“*Landscape project*” means total area of landscape in a project, as provided in the definition of “*landscaped area*”, meeting the requirements under Section 1.1 of the *Guidelines*.

“*Local agency*” means a city or county, including a charter city or charter county, that is authorized to implement, administer, and/or enforce any of the provisions of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. The *local agency* may be responsible for the enforcement or delegation of enforcement of this Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance including, but not limited to, design review, plan check, issuance of *permits*, and inspection of a *landscape project*.

“*Local water purveyor*” means any entity, including a public agency, city, county, or private water company that provides retail water service.

“*Maximum Applied Water Allowance*” or “*MAWA*” means the upper limit of annual *applied water* for the *established landscaped area* as specified in Section 2.2 of the *Guidelines*. It is based upon the area’s *reference evapotranspiration*, the *ET Adjustment Factor*, and the size of the *landscaped area*. The *Estimated Applied Water Use* shall not exceed the *Maximum Applied Water Allowance*.  $MAWA = (ET_o) (0.62) [(ETAF \times LA) + ((1-ETAF) \times SLA)]$ .

“*Mined-land reclamation projects*” means any surface mining operation with a reclamation plan approved in accordance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.

“*New construction*” means, for the purposes of this Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, a new building with a landscape or other new landscape such as a park, playground, or greenbelt without an associated building.

“*Non-pervious*” means any surface or natural material that does not allow for the passage of water through the material and into the underlying soil.

“*Pervious*” means any surface or material that allows the passage of water through the material and into the underlying soil.

“*Permit*” means an authorizing document issued by local agencies for *new construction* or *rehabilitated landscape*.

“*Plant factor*” or “*plant water use factor*” is a factor when multiplied by *ET<sub>o</sub>*, that estimates the amount of water needed by plants. For purposes of this Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, the *plant factor* range for very low water use plants is 0 to 0.1; the *plant factor* range for low water use plants is 0.1 to 0.3; the *plant factor* range for moderate water use plants is 0.4 to 0.6; and the *plant factor* range for high water use plants is 0.7 to 1.0. *Plant factors* cited in this Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance are derived from the publication, “Water Use Classification of Landscape Species.” *Plant factors* may also be obtained from horticultural researchers from academic institutions or professional associations as approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

“*Recycled water*” or “*reclaimed water*” means treated or recycled waste water of a quality suitable for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation and *water features*. This water is not intended for human consumption.

“*Reference evapotranspiration*” or “*ETo*” means a standard measurement of environmental parameters which affect the water use of plants. *ETo* is given expressed in inches per day, month, or year as represented in Appendix D of the *Guidelines*, and is an estimate of the evapotranspiration of a large field of four-to seven-inch tall, cool-season grass that is well watered. *Reference evapotranspiration* is used as the basis of determining the *Maximum Applied Water Allowances*.

“*Rehabilitated landscape*” means any re-landscaping project that meets the applicability criteria of Section 13.05.020 (b) where the modified landscape area is equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet.

“*Smart irrigation controller*” means an automatic irrigation controller utilizing either evapotranspiration or soil moisture sensor data with non-volatile memory shall be required for irrigation scheduling in all irrigation systems, recommending U.S. EPA WaterSense labeled devices as applicable.

“*Special landscape area*” means an area of the landscape dedicated solely to edible plants such as orchards and vegetable gardens, areas irrigated with *recycled water*, *water features* using *recycled water*, and recreational areas.

“*Turf*” means a ground cover surface of mowed grass. Annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, Perennial ryegrass, Red fescue, and Tall fescue are cool-season grasses. Bermuda grass, Kikuyu grass, Seashore Paspalum, St. Augustine grass, Zoysia grass, and Buffalo grass are warm-season grasses.

“*Valve*” means a device used to control the flow of water in an irrigation system.

“*Water feature*” means a design element where open water performs an aesthetic or recreational function. *Water features* include ponds, lakes, waterfalls, fountains, artificial streams, spas, and swimming pools (where water is artificially supplied). The surface area of *water features* is included in the high water use *hydrozone* of the *landscaped area*. Constructed wetlands used for on-site wastewater treatment or stormwater best management practices that are not irrigated and used solely for water treatment or stormwater retention are not *water features* and, therefore, are not subject to the water budget calculation.

SECTION 6: Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section,

subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subdivisions, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional

SECTION 7. The City Clerk shall certify as to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause a summary thereof to be published within fifteen (15) days of the adoption and shall post a Certified copy of this Ordinance, including the vote for and against the same, in the Office of the City Clerk, in accordance with Government Code Section 36933.

SECTION 8. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after approval as provided in Government Code Section 36937.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 14th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2015.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard D. Murphy, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Windmera Quintanar, City Clerk, CMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cary Reisman, City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA            )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE            ) ss.  
CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS         )

I, Windmera Quintanar, City Clerk of the City of Los Alamitos, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 2015-03 was duly introduced and placed upon its first reading at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015 and that thereafter, said Ordinance was duly adopted and passed at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 14th day of December, 2015, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:            COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
  
NOES:            COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
ABSENT:        COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
ABSTAIN:       COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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Windmera Quintanar, City Clerk, CMC

## RESOLUTION NO. 2015-38

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-13 PERTAINING TO WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE REGULATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Jerry Brown's Drought Executive Order (B-29-15), California Government Code sections 65591, *et seq.*, requires that by February 1, 2016 all local agencies shall adopt a local water conservation ordinance at least as efficient in conserving water as the State Model standards established by the Department of Water Resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Ordinance and Guidelines are effective in implementing the Ordinance: which promotes water conservation efforts by requiring the installation of new landscape with an area of 500 square feet to be designed to not exceed the maximum applied water allowances; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Ordinance and Guidelines: (1) are consistent with, and furthers the goals of, the General Plan of the City of Los Alamitos, the requirements of the State Planning and Zoning Laws (California Government Code §§ 65000 *et seq.*), and the Los Alamitos Zoning Ordinance, (2) are in the interests of the general community welfare, and (3) are consistent with good zoning and planning practices; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Guidelines hereto Exhibit A, meet the requirements set forth in Drought Executive Order B-29-15 and are at least as effective as the State Model; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Guidelines were reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code section 21000 *et seq.*, the State CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations section 15000 *et seq.*, and the City Council has exercised its independent judgment and finds that the project proposed in the Amendment is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 as the actions of this Ordinance are taken to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, and protection of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. The adoption of the Ordinance will result in the enhancement and protection of water resources in the City, and will not result in cumulative adverse environmental impacts; and,

**WHEREAS**, on December 14, 2015, the City Council considered Ordinance 2015-13 and Resolution No. 2015-38; and,

**WHEREAS**, all legal prerequisites prior to the adoption of this Ordinance have occurred.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1:** The City Council hereby finds that the facts, findings and conclusions set forth above are true and correct.

**SECTION 2:** Based upon the environmental review of the project referenced in the Amendment, the City Council finds that the Amendment is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15307.

**SECTION 3:** Based on the foregoing, the City Council hereby adopts the attached Guidelines to implement Ordinance No. 2015-13 (Exhibit A).

**SECTION 4:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 14th day of December, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard D. Murphy, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Windmera Quintanar, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cary S. Reisman, City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE ) ss  
CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS )

I, Windmera Quintanar, CMC, City Clerk, of the City of Los Alamitos, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS:

---

Windmera Quintanar, CMC, City Clerk

# **EXHIBIT A**

## **GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS, CA WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE**

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## 1. Purpose and Applicability

### 1.1 Purpose

- (A) The primary purpose of these Guidelines is to provide procedural and design guidance for *project applicants* proposing landscape installation or rehabilitation projects that are subject to the requirements of the *Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance*. This document is also intended for use and reference by *City* staff in reviewing and approving designs and verifying compliance with the *Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance*. The general purpose of the *Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance* is to promote the design, installation, and maintenance of landscaping in a manner that conserves regional water resources by ensuring that landscaping projects are not unduly water-needy and that irrigation systems are appropriately designed and installed to minimize water waste.
- (B) Other regulations affecting landscape design and maintenance practices are potentially applicable and should be consulted for additional requirements. These regulations include but may not be limited to:
  - (1) State of California Assembly Bill 1881;
  - (2) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System;
  - (3) Orange County Fire Authority Regulations for Fuel Modification in the Landscape;
  - (4) Water Conservation and Drought Response Regulations of the Local Water Purveyor;
  - (5) Regulations of the Local Water Purveyor governing use of *Recycled Water*;
  - (6) Zoning Code;
  - (7) Building Code;
  - (8) Specific Plans, Master Plans, General Plan, or similar land use and planning documents; and,
  - (9) Conditions of approval for a specific project.

### 1.2 Applicability

- (A) The *Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance* and these Guidelines apply to all of the following landscape projects:

- (1) New landscape projects with an *aggregate* landscape area equal to or greater than 500 square feet, requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check or design review;
  - (2) Rehabilitated landscape projects with an *aggregate* landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet, requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check or design review;
  - (3) New or rehabilitated landscape projects with an *aggregate* landscape area of 2,500 square feet or less may comply with the performance requirements of this ordinance or conform to the prescriptive measures contained in Appendix A ;
  - (4) New or rehabilitated projects using treated or untreated *greywater* or rainwater capture on site, any lot or parcels within the project that has less than 2,500 square feet of landscape area and meets the lot or parcel's landscape water requirement (Estimated Total Water Use) entirely with the treated or untreated *greywater* or though stored rainwater capture on site is subject only to Appendix A Section (5).
- (B) The requirements of the Guidelines may be partially or wholly waived, at the discretion of the *City* or its designee, for landscape rehabilitation projects that are limited to replacement plantings with equal or lower water needs and where the irrigation system is found to be designed, operable and programmed consistent with minimizing water waste in accordance with local water purveyor regulations.
- (C) Unless otherwise determined by the *City*, the *Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance* and these Guidelines do not apply to:
- (1) Registered local, state, or federal historical sites;
  - (2) Ecological restoration projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system;
  - (3) Mined-land reclamation projects that do not require a permanent irrigation system; or
  - (4) Plant collections, as part of botanical gardens, and arboretums open to the public.

## 2. Submittal Requirements for New Landscape Installations or Landscape Rehabilitation Projects

- (A) Discretionary approval is typically required for landscape projects that are subject to site plan reviews, or where a variance from a local building code is requested,

or other procedural processes apply such that standard or special conditions of approval may be required by the *City*. Discretionary projects with conditions of approval may be approved administratively by *City* staff, or acted on formally by the Planning Commission, *City* Council, or other jurisdictional authority. A typical standard condition of approval reads:

*“Landscaping for the project shall be designed to comply with the City’s Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and with the Guidelines for Implementation of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.”*

Landscape or *water features* that typically require a ministerial permit (i.e., a building, plumbing, electrical, or other similar permit), thereby triggering compliance with the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance requirements independently of the need for discretionary approval include, but are not limited to, swimming pools, fountains or ponds, retaining walls, and overhead trellises.

## **2.2 Elements of the Landscape Documentation Package**

- (A) A *Landscape Documentation Package* is required to be submitted by the *project applicant* for review and approval prior to the issuance of ministerial permits for landscape or *water features* by the *City*, and prior to start of construction. Unless otherwise directed by the *City*, the *Landscape Documentation Package* shall include the following elements either on plan sheets or supplemental pages as directed by the *City*:
  - (1) Project Information, including, but not limited to, the following:
    - (a) Date;
    - (b) Project name;
    - (c) Project address, parcel, and/or lot number(s);
    - (d) Total *landscape area* (square feet) and rehabilitated *landscape area* (if applicable);
    - (e) Project type (e.g., new, rehabilitated, public, private, cemetery, homeowner-installed);
    - (f) Water supply type (e.g., potable, recycled, or well) and identification of the local retail water purveyor if the *project applicant* is not served by a private well;
    - (g) Checklist or index of all documents in the *Landscape Documentation Package*;

- (h) Project contacts, including contact information for the *project applicant* and *property owner*;
  - (i) *Certification of Design* in accordance with **Exhibit A** of these *Guidelines* that includes a *landscape professional's* professional stamp, as applicable, signature, contact information (including email and telephone number), license number, and date, certifying the statement that “The design of this project complies with the requirements of the *City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance*” and shall bear the signature of the *landscape professional* as required by law; and,
  - (j) Any other information the *City* deems relevant for determining whether the landscape project complies with the *Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance* and these *Guidelines*.
- (2) *Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA)* and *Estimated Applied Water Use (EAWU)* expressed as annual totals including, but not limited to, the following:
- (a) *Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet* (optional at discretion of the *City*) for the landscape project;
  - (b) *Hydrozone* information table (optional at the discretion of the *City*) for the landscape project; and,
  - (c) Water budget calculations (optional at the discretion of the *City*) for the landscape project.
- (3) A soil management report or specifications, or specification provision requiring soil testing and amendment recommendations and implementation to be accomplished during construction of the landscape project.
- (4) A landscape design plan for the landscape project.
- (5) An irrigation design plan for the landscape project.
- (6) A grading design plan, unless grading information is included in the landscape design plan for the landscape project or unless the landscape project is limited to replacement planting and/or irrigation to rehabilitate an existing landscape area.

### **2.3 Water Efficient Landscape Calculations and Alternatives**

- (A) The *project applicant* shall provide the calculated *Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA)* and *Estimated Applied Water Use (EAWU)* for the landscape area as part of the *Landscape Documentation Package* submittal to the

City. The MAWA and EAWU shall be calculated based on completing the *Water Efficient Landscape Worksheets* (in accordance with the sample worksheets in **Appendix C**) which contain information on the *plant factor*, irrigation method, *irrigation efficiency* and area associated with each *hydrozone*. Calculations are then made to show that the *evapotranspiration adjustment factor* (ETAF) for the landscape project does not exceed a factor of 0.55 for residential areas and 0.45 for non-residential areas, exclusive of *Special Landscape Areas*. The ETAF for a landscape project is based on the *plant factors* and irrigation methods selected. The *Maximum Applied Water Allowance* is calculated based on the maximum ETAF allowed (0.55 for residential areas and 0.45 for non-residential areas) and expressed as annual gallons required. The EAWU is calculated based on the plants used and irrigation method selected for the landscape design.

- (B) The EAWU allowable for the landscape area shall not exceed the MAWA. The MAWA shall be calculated using an *evapotranspiration adjustment factor* (ETAF) of 0.55 for residential areas and 0.45 for non-residential areas, except for the portion of the MAWA applicable to any *Special Landscape Areas* within the landscape project, which shall be calculated using an ETAF of 1.0. Where the design of the landscape area can otherwise be shown to be equivalently water-efficient, the *project applicant* may submit alternative or abbreviated information supporting the demonstration that the annual EAWU is less than the MAWA, at the discretion of and for the review and approval of the local agency.
- (C) Water budget calculations shall adhere to the following requirements:
  - (1) The *MAWA* shall be calculated using the *Water Efficient Landscape Worksheets* and equation presented in **Appendix C**.
  - (2) The *EAWU* shall be calculated using the *Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet* and equations presented in **Appendix C**.
  - (3) For the calculation of the *MAWA* and *EAWU*, a *project applicant* shall use the *ETo* values from the closest location listed the *Reference Evapotranspiration Table* in **Appendix D**. For geographic areas not covered in **Appendix D**, data from other cities, or zip codes, located nearby in the same *reference evapotranspiration zone* may be used.
  - (4) For calculation of the *EAWU*, the *plant water use factor* shall be determined as appropriate to the project location from the *Water Use Efficiency of Landscape Species (WUCOLS) Species Evaluation List* or from horticultural researchers with academic institutions or professional associations as approved by the California Department of water Resources (DWR). The *plant factor* ranges from 0 to 0.1 for very low water use plants, 0.1 to 0.3 for low water use plants, 0.4 to 0.6 for moderate water use plants, and 0.7 to 1.0 for high water use plants.

- (5) For calculating the *EAWU*, the *plant water use factor* shall be determined for each *valve hydrozone* based on the highest-water-use plant species within the zone. The *plant factor* for each *hydrozone* may be required to be further refined as a “*landscape coefficient*,” according to protocols defined in detail in the *WUCOLS* document, to reflect planting density and *microclimate* effects on water need at the option of the *project applicant* or the *City*.
- (6) For calculation of the *EAWU*, the area of a *water feature* shall be defined as a high water use *hydrozone* with a *plant factor* of 1.0.
- (7) For calculation of the *EAWU*, a temporarily irrigated *hydrozone* area, such as an area of highly drought-tolerant native plants that are not intended to be irrigated after they are fully established, shall be defined as a very low water use *hydrozone* with a *plant factor* of 0.1.
- (8) For calculation of the *MAWA*, the *ETAF* for *Special Landscape Areas (SLA)* shall be set at 1.0. For calculation of the *EAWU*, the *ETAF* for *SLA* shall be calculated as the *SLA plant factor* divided by the *SLA irrigation efficiency factor*.
- (9) *Irrigation efficiency (IE)* of the irrigation heads used within each *hydrozone* shall be assumed to be as follows, unless otherwise indicated by the irrigation equipment manufacturer’s specifications or demonstrated by the *project applicant*:

<b>Irrigation Method</b>	<b>DU<sub>LQ</sub></b>	<b>DU<sub>LH</sub>*</b>	<b>EU</b>	<b>IE**</b>
Spray nozzles	65%	79%		71%
High efficiency spray nozzles	70%	82%		73%
Multi stream/Multi trajectory rotary (MSMT) nozzles	75%	85%		76%
Stream rotor nozzle	70%	82%		73%
Microspray	75%	85%		76%
Bubblers			85%	77%
Drip emitter			90%	81%
Subsurface drip			90%	81%

\* $DU_{LH} = .386 + (.614)(DU_{LQ})$

\*\*  $IE (\text{spray}) = (DU_{LH})(IME)$

\*\*  $IE (\text{drip}) = \text{Emission uniformity (EU)}(IME)$

- (D) The *Maximum Applied Water Allowance* shall adhere to the following requirements:

- (1) The *Maximum Applied Water Allowance* shall be calculated using the equation presented in **Appendix C**. The *reference evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>)* values used for this calculation are from the *Reference Evapotranspiration Table* in **Appendix D** and are for planning purposes only. For actual irrigation scheduling, automatic irrigation controllers are

required and shall use current *ET<sub>o</sub>* data, such as from the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS), other equivalent data, or soil moisture sensor data.

## 2.4 Soil and Stormwater Management

- (A) All planted landscape areas are required to have friable soil to maximize retention and infiltration. On engineered slopes, only amended planting holes need meet this requirement.
- (B) In order to reduce *runoff* and encourage healthy plant growth, a soil management report shall be completed by the *project applicant*, or his/her designee, as follows:
  - (1) Submit soil samples to a certified agronomic soils laboratory for analysis and recommendations.
    - (a) Soil sampling shall be conducted in accordance with laboratory protocol, including protocols regarding adequate sampling depth for the intended plants.
    - (b) The soil analysis may include, but is not limited to:
      1. soil texture;
      2. *infiltration rate* determined by laboratory test or soil texture *infiltration rate* table;
      3. pH;
      4. total soluble salts;
      5. sodium;
      6. percent organic matter; and,
      7. recommendations.
  - (2) In projects with multiple landscape installations (i.e. production home developments or *common interest developments* that are installing landscaping) a soil sampling rate of 1 in 7 lots or approximately 15% will satisfy this requirement; evenly disbursed throughout the development. Large landscape projects shall sample at a rate equivalent to 1 in 7 lots or approximately 15% landscape area. The *project applicant*, or his/her designee, shall comply with one of the following:
    - (a) If significant mass grading is not planned, the soil analysis report shall be submitted to the local agency as part of the *Landscape Documentation Package*; or

- (b) If significant mass grading is planned, the soil analysis report shall be submitted to the *City* as part of the *Certification of Completion*.
  - (c) The soil analysis report shall be made available, in a timely manner, to the professionals preparing the landscape design plans and irrigation design plans in order to make any necessary adjustments to the design plans.
  - (d) The *project applicant*, or his/her designee, shall submit documentation verifying implementation of soil analysis report recommendations to the local agency with the *Certification of Completion*.
- (C) It is recommended that storm water projects incorporate any of the following elements to improve on-site stormwater and dry weather *runoff* capture and use:
- (1) Grade impervious surfaces, such as driveways, during construction to drain into vegetated areas.
  - (2) Minimize the area of impervious surfaces such as paved areas, roof, and concrete driveways.
  - (3) Incorporate *pervious* or porous surfaces (e.g. gravel, permeable pavers or blocks, *pervious* or porous concrete) that minimize *runoff*.
  - (4) Direct *runoff* from paved surfaces and roof areas into planting beds or landscape areas to maximize site water capture and reuse.
  - (5) Incorporate rain gardens, cisterns, and other rain harvesting or catchment systems.
  - (6) Incorporate infiltration beds, swales, basins, and drywells to capture stormwater and dry weather *runoff* and increase percolation into the soil.
  - (7) Consider constructed wetlands and ponds that retain water, equalize excess flow, and filter pollutants.

## 2.5 Landscape Design Plan

- (A) For the efficient use of water, a landscape shall be carefully designed and planned for the intended function of the project. The following design criteria shall be submitted as part of the *Landscape Documentation Package*.
  - (1) Plant Material
    - (a) Any plant may be selected for the *landscape area* provided the *EAU* in the *landscape area* does not exceed the *MAWA*. Methods

to achieve water efficiency shall include one or more of the following:

- i. Protection and preservation of non-*invasive* water-conserving plant, tree and *turf* species;
- ii. Selection of water-conserving plant, tree and *turf* species;
- iii. Selection of plants based on local climate suitability, disease and pest resistance;
- iv. Selection of trees based on applicable *City* and local tree ordinances or tree shading guidelines, and size at maturity as appropriate for the planting area; and,
- v. Selection of plants from local and regional landscape program plant lists.
- vi. Selection of plants from local Fuel Modification Plan Guidelines.

- (B) Each *hydrozone* shall have plant materials with similar water use; with the exception of *hydrozones* with plants of mixed water use, as specified in Section 2.6(A)(2)(D) of these *Guidelines*.
- (C) Plants shall be selected and planted appropriately based upon their adaptability to the climatic, geologic, and topographical conditions of the project site. Methods to achieve water efficiency shall include one or more of the following:
- (1) Use the *Sunset* Western Climate Zone System, or equivalent generally accepted models, which takes into account temperature, humidity, elevation, terrain, latitude, and varying degrees of continental and marine influence on local climate;
  - (2) Recognize the horticultural attributes of plants (i.e., mature plant size, *invasive* surface roots) to minimize damage to property or infrastructure (e.g., buildings, sidewalks, and power lines); allow for adequate soil volume for healthy root growth; and,
  - (3) Consider the solar orientation for plant placement to maximize summer shade and winter solar gain.
- (D) *Turf* is discouraged on slopes greater than 25% where the toe of the slope is adjacent to an impermeable hardscape and where 25% means 1 foot of vertical elevation change for every 4 feet of horizontal length (rise divided by run x 100 = slope percent).

- (E) High water use plants, characterized by a *plant factor* of 0.7 to 1.0, are prohibited in street medians.
- (F) A landscape design plan for projects in fire-prone areas and fuel modification zones shall comply with requirements of the local Fire Authority, where applicable. Refer to the local Fuel Modification Plan Guidelines. When conflicts between water conservation and fire safety design elements exist, the fire safety requirements shall have priority.
- (G) The use of *invasive* plant species, such as those listed by the California Invasive Plant Council, is strongly discouraged.
- (H) The architectural guidelines of a common interest development, which include community apartment projects, condominiums, planned developments, and stock cooperatives, shall not prohibit or include conditions that have the effect of prohibiting the use of water efficient plant species as a group.
  - (1) Water Features
    - (a) Recirculating water systems shall be used for *water features*.
    - (b) Where available and consistent with public health guidelines, *recycled water* shall be used as a source for decorative *water features*.
    - (c) The surface area of a *water feature* shall be included in the high water use *hydrozone* area of the water budget calculation.
    - (d) Pool and spa covers are highly recommended.
  - (2) *Soil Preparation, Mulch* and Amendments
    - (a) Prior to planting of any materials, compacted soils shall be transformed to a friable condition. On engineered slopes, only amended planting holes need to meet this requirement.
    - (b) Soil amendments shall be incorporated according to the recommendations of the soil report and what is appropriate for plants selected.
    - (c) For landscape installations, 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. Soils with greater than 6% organic matter in the top 6 inches of soil are exempt from adding compost and tilling.
    - (d) A minimum three inch (3") layer of *mulch* shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except in *turf* areas,

creeping or rooting groundcovers, or direct seeding applications where *mulch* is contraindicated. To provide habitat for beneficial insects and other wildlife, up to 5% of the landscape area may be left without *mulch*. Designated insect habitat must be included in the landscape design plan as such.

- (e) Stabilizing mulching products shall be used on slopes that meet current engineering standards such as those detailed in the USDA/USAID Low-Volume Roads Engineering Best Management Practices Field Guide.
  - (f) The mulching portion of the seed/*mulch* slurry in hydro-seeded applications shall meet the mulching requirement.
  - (g) Organic *mulch* materials made from recycled or post-consumer shall take precedence over inorganic materials or virgin forest products unless the recycled post-consumer organic products are not locally available. Organic mulches are not required where prohibited by local fuel Modification Plan Guidelines or other applicable local ordinances.
- (I) The landscape design plan, at a minimum, shall:
- (1) Delineate and label each *hydrozone* by number, letter, or other method;
  - (2) Identify each *hydrozone* as low, moderate, high water, or mixed water use. Temporarily irrigated areas of the *landscape area* shall be included in the low water use *hydrozone* for the water budget calculation;
  - (3) Identify recreational areas;
  - (4) Identify areas permanently and solely dedicated to edible plants;
  - (5) Identify areas irrigated with *recycled water*;
  - (6) Identify type of *mulch* and application depth;
  - (7) Identify soil amendments, type, and quantity;
  - (8) Identify type and surface area of *water features*;
  - (9) Identify *hardscapes* (*pervious* and *non-pervious*);
  - (10) Identify location and installation details, and 24-hour retention or infiltration capacity of any applicable storm water best management practices that encourage on-site retention and infiltration of storm water. *Project applicants* shall refer to the local agency or regional Water Quality Control Board for information on any applicable stormwater technical

requirements. Storm water best management practices are encouraged in the landscape design plan and examples are provided in Section 2.4(C).

- (11) Identify any applicable rain harvesting or catchment technologies (e.g., rain gardens, cisterns, etc.);
- (12) Contain the following statement: “I have complied with the criteria of the *Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance* and applied them for the efficient use of water in the landscape design plan;” and
- (13) Bear the signature of a California-licensed *landscape professional*.

## 2.6 Irrigation Design Plan

(A) This section applies to landscape areas requiring permanent irrigation, not areas that require temporary irrigation solely for the plant establishment period. For the efficient use of water, an irrigation system shall meet all the requirements listed in this section and the manufacturer’s recommendations. The irrigation system and its related components shall be planned and designed to allow for proper installation, management, and maintenance. An irrigation design plan meeting the following design criteria shall be submitted as part of the *Landscape Documentation Package*.

### (1) System

(a) Landscape water meters, defined as either a dedicated water service meter or private sub meter, shall be installed for all non-residential irrigated landscapes of 1,000 sq. ft. but not more than 5,000 sq. ft. (the level at which Water Code 535 applies) and residential irrigated landscapes of 5,000 sq. ft. or greater. A landscape water meter may be either:

1. A customer service meter dedicated to landscape use provided by the local water purveyor; or
2. A privately owned meter or sub meter.

(b) Automatic irrigation controllers utilizing either evapotranspiration or soil moisture sensor data with non-volatile memory shall be required for irrigation scheduling in all irrigation systems, recommending U.S. EPA WaterSense labeled devices as applicable.

(c) *Sensors* (rain, freeze, wind, etc.), either integral or auxiliary, that suspend or alter irrigation operation during unfavorable weather conditions shall be required on all irrigation systems, as appropriate for local climatic conditions. Irrigation should be avoided during windy or freezing weather or during rain.

- (d) If the water pressure is below or exceeds the recommended pressure of the specified irrigation devices, the installation of a pressure regulating device is required to ensure that the dynamic pressure at each emission device is within the manufacturer's recommended pressure range for optimal performance.
1. If the static pressure is above or below the required dynamic pressure of the irrigation system, pressure-regulating devices such as inline pressure regulators, booster pumps, or other devices shall be installed to meet the required dynamic pressure of the irrigation system.
  2. *Static water pressure*, dynamic or *operating pressure*, and flow reading of the water supply shall be measured at the point of connection. These pressure and flow measurements shall be conducted at the design stage. If the measurements are not available at the design stage, the measurements shall be conducted at installation.
- (e) *Backflow prevention devices* shall be required to protect the water supply from contamination by the irrigation system. A *project applicant* shall refer to the applicable *City code* (i.e., public health) for additional backflow prevention requirements.
- (f) A *master shutoff valve* shall be as close as possible to the point of connection and is required on all projects; with the exception for landscapes that make use of technologies that allow for the individual control of sprinklers that are individually pressurized in a system equipped with low pressure shut down features.
- (g) *Flow sensors* that detect high flow conditions created by system damage or malfunction are required for all non-residential landscapes and residential landscapes of 5,000 sq. ft. or larger. The flow sensor must be in combination with a *master shut-off valve*.
- (h) *Manual isolation valves* (such as a *gate valve*, *ball valve*, or *butterfly valve*) shall be required downstream of the point of connection of the water supply to minimize water loss in case of an emergency (such as a *main line break*) or routine repair.
- (i) The irrigation system shall be designed to prevent *runoff*, low head drainage, *overspray*, or other similar conditions where irrigation water flows onto non-targeted areas, such as adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, *hardscapes*, roadways, or structures.
- (j) Relevant information from the soil management plan, such as soil type and *infiltration rate*, shall be utilized when designing irrigation systems.

- (k) The design of the irrigation system shall conform to the *hydrozones* of the landscape design plan.
- (l) All irrigation emission devices must meet the requirements set in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers'/International Code Council's (ASABE/ICC) 802-2014 "Landscape Irrigation Sprinkler and Emitter Standard, All *Sprinkler heads* installed in the landscape must document a *distribution uniformity* low quarter of 0.65 or higher using the protocol defined in ASBE/ICC 802-2014.
- (m) Average *irrigation efficiency* (IE) for the project shall be determined in accordance with the EAWU calculation sheet in **Appendix C**. Unless otherwise indicated by the irrigation equipment manufacturer's specifications or demonstrated by the *project applicant*, the *irrigation efficiency* of the irrigation heads used within each *hydrozone* shall as listed in Section 2.3(C)(9).
- (n) It is highly recommended that the *project applicant* or local agency inquire with the local water purveyor about peak water operating demands (on the water supply system) or water restrictions that may impact the effectiveness of the irrigation system.
- (o) In *mulched* planting areas, the use of *low volume irrigation (drip or low volume overhead irrigation)* is required to maximize water infiltration into the root zone; with the exception of areas with fuel modification requirements and/or those that require plant establishment to comply with local grading ordinances.
- (p) *Sprinkler heads* and other emission devices shall have matched *precipitation rates*, unless otherwise directed by the manufacturer's recommendations.
- (q) Head to head coverage is recommended. However, sprinkler spacing shall be designed to achieve the highest possible *distribution uniformity* using the manufacturer's recommendations.
- (r) *Swing joint* components are required on all sprinklers subject to damage that are adjacent to *hardscapes* or in high traffic areas of *turf*.
- (s) *Check valves* or *anti-drain valves* are required on all *sprinkler heads* where low point drainage could occur.
- (t) Areas less than ten (10) feet in width in any direction shall be irrigated with subsurface irrigation or other means that produces no *runoff* or *overspray*.

- (u) *Overhead* irrigation shall not be permitted within 24 inches of any non-permeable surface. Allowable irrigation within the setback from non-permeable surfaces may include drip, drip line, or other low flow non-spray technology. The setback area may be planted or unplanted. The surfacing of the setback may be *mulch*, gravel, or other porous material. These restrictions may be modified if:
  1. the *landscape area* is adjacent to permeable surfacing and no *runoff* occurs; or
  2. the adjacent non-permeable surfaces are designed and constructed to drain entirely to landscaping; or
  3. the irrigation designer for the landscape project specifies an alternative design or technology, as part of the *Landscape Documentation Package*, and clearly demonstrates strict adherence to the irrigation system design criteria in Section 2.6 (A)(1) hereof. Prevention of *overspray* and *runoff* must be confirmed during an *irrigation audit*.
  4. slopes greater than 25% shall not be irrigated with an irrigation system with a *application rate* exceeding 0.75 inches per hour. This restriction may be modified if the landscape designer of the landscape project specifies an alternative design or technology, as part of the *Landscape Documentation Package*, and clearly demonstrates no *runoff* or erosion will occur. Prevention of *runoff* and erosion must be confirmed during the *irrigation audit*.

(2) *Hydrozone*

- (a) Each *valve* shall irrigate a *hydrozone* with similar site, slope, sun exposure, soil conditions, and plant materials with similar water use.
- (b) *Sprinkler heads* and other emission devices shall be selected based on what is appropriate for the plant type within that *hydrozone*.
- (c) Where feasible, trees shall be placed on separate valves from shrubs, groundcovers, and *turf* to facilitate the appropriate irrigation of trees. The mature size and extent of the root zone shall be considered when designing irrigation for the tree.
- (d) Individual *hydrozones* that mix plants of moderate and low water use or moderate and high water use may be allowed if:

1. The *plant factor* calculation is based on the proportions of the respective plant water uses and their respective *plant factors*; or
  2. The *plant factor* of the higher water using plant is used for the calculations.
- (e) Individual *hydrozones* that mix high and low water use plants shall not be permitted.
- (f) On the landscape design plan and irrigation design plan, *hydrozone* areas shall be designated by number, letter, or other designation. On the irrigation design plan, designate the areas irrigated by each *valve* and assign a number to each *valve*.
- (g) The irrigation design plan, at a minimum, shall contain:
1. the location and size of separate water meters for landscape;
  2. the location, type, and size of all components of the irrigation system, including controllers, main and *lateral lines*, *valves*, *sprinkler heads*, *moisture sensing devices*, rain switches, quick couplers, pressure regulators, and *backflow prevention devices*;
  3. *static water pressure* at the point of connection to the public water supply;
  4. *flow rate* (gallons per minute), application rate (inches per hour), and design *operating pressure* (pressure per square inch) for each *station*;
  5. irrigation schedule parameters necessary to program smart timers specified in the landscape design;
  6. the following statement: “I have complied with the criteria of the *Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance* and applied them accordingly for the efficient use of water in the irrigation design plan;” and
  7. the signature of a California-licensed *landscape professional*.

## 2.7 Grading Design Plan

- (A) For the efficient use of water, grading of a landscape project site shall be designed to minimize soil erosion, *runoff*, and water waste. Finished grading configuration of the *landscape area*, including pads, slopes, drainage, post-construction erosion control, and storm water control Best Management Practices, as applicable, shall be shown on the Landscape Plan unless this information is fully included in

separate Grading Plans for the project, or unless the project is limited to replacement planting and/or irrigation to rehabilitate an existing *landscape area*.

- (B) The *project applicant* shall submit a landscape grading plan that indicates finished configurations and elevations of the *landscape area* including:
  - (1) Height of graded slopes;
  - (2) Drainage patterns;
  - (3) Pad elevations;
  - (4) Finish grade; and,
  - (5) Storm water retention improvements, if applicable.
- (C) To prevent excessive erosion and *runoff*, it is highly recommended that the *project applicant*:
  - (1) Grade so that all irrigation and normal rainfall remains within property lines and does not drain on to non-permeable *hardscapes*;
  - (2) Avoid disruption of natural drainage patterns and undisturbed soil; and,
  - (3) Avoid soil compaction in *landscape areas*.
- (D) The Grading Design Plan shall contain the following statement: “I have complied with the criteria of the ordinance and applied them accordingly for the efficient use of water in the grading design plan” and shall bear the signature of the *landscape professional*, as required by law.

## 2.8 Certification of Completion

- (A) Landscape project installation shall not proceed until the *Landscape Documentation Package* has been approved by the *City* and any ministerial permits required are issued.
- (B) The *project applicant* shall notify the *City* at the beginning of the installation work and at intervals, as necessary, for the duration of the landscape project work to schedule all required inspections.
- (C) *Certification of Completion* of the landscape project shall be obtained through a Certificate of Use and Occupancy or a *Permit Final*. The requirements for the Final Inspection and *Permit Closure* include submittal of:
  - (1) *A Landscape Installation Certificate of Completion* in the form included as **Appendix E** of these *Guidelines*, which shall include: (i) certification by a *landscape professional* that the *landscape project* has been installed per the approved *Landscape Documentation Package*; and, (ii) the following

statement: “The landscaping has been installed in substantial conformance to the design plans, and complies with the provisions of the *Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance* for the efficient use of water in the landscape.”

- (a) Where there have been significant changes (as deemed by the local permitting agency) made in the field during construction, these “as-built” or record drawings shall be included with the certificate.
  - (b) A diagram of the irrigation plan showing *hydrozones* shall be kept with the irrigation controller for subsequent management purposes.
- (2) Documentation of the irrigation scheduling parameters used to set the *controller(s)*;
- (3) An *irrigation audit* report from a local agency landscape irrigation auditor or third party *certified landscape irrigation auditor*, documentation of enrollment in regional or local water purveyor’s water conservation programs, and/or documentation that the MAWA and EAWU information for the *landscape project* has been submitted to the local water purveyor, may be required at the option of the *City*. Example Inspection Affidavit is included as **Appendix H**.
- (a) Landscape audits shall not be conducted by the *person* who designed or installed the landscape.
  - (b) In large projects or projects with multiple landscape installations (i.e. production home developments or *common interest developments*) an auditing rate of 1 in 7 lots or approximately 15% will satisfy this requirement.

## **2.9 Post-Installation Irrigation Scheduling**

- (A) For the efficient use of water, all irrigation schedules shall be developed, managed, and evaluated to utilize the minimum amount of water required to maintain plant health. Irrigation schedules shall meet the following criteria:
- (1) Irrigation scheduling shall be regulated by automatic irrigation controllers.
  - (2) *Overhead* irrigation shall be scheduled in accordance with the local water purveyor’s Water Conservation Ordinance. Operation of the irrigation system outside the normal *watering window* is allowed for auditing and system maintenance.

## **2.10 Post-Installation Landscape and Irrigation Maintenance**

- (A) Landscapes shall be maintained to ensure water use efficiency in accordance with Section 20.315.050(C) of the Stanton Municipal Code.

### 3. Provisions for Existing Landscapes

- (A) Irrigation of all *landscape areas* shall be conducted in a manner conforming to the rules and requirements and shall be subject to penalties and incentives for water conservation and water waste prevention, as determined and implemented by the *local water purveyor* and as may be mutually agreed by the *City*.
- (B) The *City* and/or the regional or *local water purveyor* may administer programs such as irrigation water use analyses, irrigation surveys and/or *irrigation audits*, tiered water rate structures, water budgeting by parcel, or other approaches to achieve landscape water use efficiency community-wide to a level equivalent to or less than would be achieved by applying a *MAWA* calculated with an ETAF of 0.7 to all *landscape areas* in the *City* over one acre in size.
- (C) The architectural guidelines of a *common interest development*, including apartments, condominiums, planned developments, and stock cooperatives, shall not prohibit or include conditions that have the effect of prohibiting the use of low-water use plants as a group.

### 4. Public Education

- (A) Publications. Education is a critical component to promote the efficient use of water in landscapes. The use of appropriate principles of design, installation, management, and maintenance that save water is encouraged in the community.
- (B) Model Homes. All model homes that are landscaped shall use signs and written information to demonstrate the principles of water efficient landscapes as described.
  - (1) Signs shall be used to identify the model as an example of a water efficient landscape featuring elements such as *hydrozones*, irrigation equipment, and others that contribute to the overall water efficient theme. Signage shall include information about the site water use as designed per the local ordinance; specify who designed and installed the site water efficient landscape; and, demonstrate low water use approaches to landscaping such as using appropriate plants, alternative water sources, or rainwater catchment systems.
  - (2) Information shall be provided about designing, installing, managing, and maintaining water efficient landscapes.

## Appendix A: Prescriptive Compliance Option

### PRESCRIPTIVE COMPLIANCE OPTION

- (A) This appendix contains prescriptive requirements which may be used as a compliance option to the Ordinance.
- (B) Compliance with the following items is mandatory and must be documented in a landscape plan in order to use the prescriptive compliance option:
  - (1) Submit a *Landscape Documentation Package* which includes the following elements:
    - (a) Date;
    - (b) *Project applicant*;
    - (c) Project address (if available, parcel and/or lot number (s));
    - (d) Total landscape area (square feet), including a breakdown of *turf* and plant material;
    - (e) Project type (e.g., new, rehabilitated, public, private, cemetery, homeowner-installed);
    - (f) Water supply type (e.g., potable, recycled, well) and identify the local retail water purveyor if the applicant is not served by a private well;
    - (g) Contact information for the *project applicant* and property owner; and,
    - (h) Applicant signature and date with statement, "I agree to comply with the requirements of the prescriptive compliance option to the MWEL0."
  - (2) Incorporate compost at a rate of at least four cubic yards per 1,000 square feet to a depth of six inches into landscape area (unless contra-indicated by a soil test);
  - (3) Plant material shall comply with all of the following:
    - (a) For residential areas, install climate adapted plants that require occasional, little or no summer water (average *WUCOLS* plan factor 0.3) for 75% of the plant area excluding edibles and areas using *recycled water*; For non-residential areas, install climate adapted plants that require occasional, little or no summer water;

- (b) (average *WUCOLS* plan factor 0.3) for 100% of the plant area excluding edibles and areas using *recycled water*; and,
  - (c) A minimum three inch (3”) layer of *mulch* shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except in *turf* areas, creeping or rooting groundcovers, or direct seeding applications where *mulch* is contraindicated.
- (4) *Turf* shall comply with all of the following:
  - (a) *Turf* shall not exceed 25% of the landscape area in residential areas, and *turf* shall not be planted in non-residential areas;
  - (b) *Turf* shall not be planted on sloped areas which exceed a slope of 1 foot vertical elevation change for every 4 feet of horizontal length; and,
  - (c) *Turf* is prohibited in parkways less than 10 feet wide, unless the parkway is adjacent to a parking strip and used to enter and exit vehicles. Any *turf* in parkways must be irrigated by sub-surface irrigation, or by other technology that creates no *overspray* or *runoff*.
- (5) Irrigation systems shall comply with the following:
  - (a) Automatic irrigation controllers are required and must use evapotranspiration or soil moisture sensor data;
  - (b) Irrigation controllers shall be of a type which does not lose programming data in the event the primary power source is interrupted;
  - (c) Pressure regulators shall be installed on the irrigation system to ensure the dynamic pressure of the system is within the manufacturers recommended pressure range;
  - (d) Manual shut-off valves (such as a gate valve, ball valve, or butterfly valve) shall be installed as close as possible to the point of connection of the water supply; and,
  - (e) All irrigation emission devices must meet the requirements set in the ANSI standard, ASABE/ICC802-2014. “Landscape irrigation Sprinkler and Emitter Standard.” All *Sprinkler heads* installed in the landscape must document a *distribution uniformity* low quarter of 0.65 or higher using the protocol defined in ASABE/ICC 802-2014.

- (C) 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 and a schedule of landscape and irrigation maintenance.



**Appendix B: Certification of Landscape Design**

**CERTIFICATION OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

I hereby certify that:

- (1) I am a professional appropriately licensed in the State of California to provide professional landscape design services.
- (2) The landscape design and water use calculations for the property located at \_\_\_\_\_  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720 (provide street address or parcel number(s)) were prepared by me or under my supervision.
- (3) The landscape design and water use calculations for the identified property comply with the requirements of the City of Los Alamitos Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Municipal Code Sections 13.05) and the City of Los Alamitos Guidelines for Implementation of the City of Los Alamitos Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.
- (4) The information I have provided in this Certificate of Landscape Design is true and correct and is hereby submitted in compliance with the City of Los Alamitos Guidelines for Implementation of the City of Los Alamitos Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
License Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

Landscape Design Professional's Stamp  
(If applicable)



**Appendix C: Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet**

**WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE WORKSHEET**

This worksheet is filled out by the project applicant and it is a required item of the Landscape Documentation Package.

Landscape Area Sector Type  Residential  
 (select one):  Non-Residential

Reference Evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>)<sup>a</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

	Hydrozone #/Planting Description	Location	Plant Factor <sup>b</sup> (PF)	Irrigation Method <sup>c</sup>	Irrigation Efficiency <sup>c</sup> (IE)	ETAF (PF/IE)	Landscape Area (sq-ft)	ETAF x Area	Estimated Total Water Use <sup>d</sup> (ETWU)
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**Regular Landscape Area**

1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									

Average	Total	Total

Average ETAF for Regular Landscape Areas<sup>e</sup> (circle one):  In Compliance  Not In Compliance

**Special Landscape Area**

SLA-1									
SLA-2									
SLA-3									
SLA-4									
SLA-5									

Totals

Total Landscape Area   
 Site wide ETAF   
 ETWU Total   
 Maximum Allowed Water Allowance (MAWA)<sup>f</sup>

## WORKSHEET INFORMATION & EQUATIONS

<sup>a</sup> Local monthly evapotranspiration rates are listed in Appendix D.

<sup>b</sup> The following table can be used for common plant factors:

Plant Factor	PF
Very low water use plant	0.1
Low water use plant	0.2
Medium water use plant	0.5
High water use plant	0.8
Lawn	0.8
Pool, spa, or other water feature	1.0

<sup>c</sup> *Irrigation efficiency* is derived from measurements and estimates of irrigation system characteristics and management practices. The minimum average *irrigation efficiency* for purposes of these *Guidelines* is 0.71. The following *irrigation efficiency* may be obtained for the listed irrigation heads with an *Irrigation Management Efficiency* of 90%:

Irrigation Method	IE
Spray nozzles	71%
High efficiency spray nozzles	73%
Multi stream/Multi trajectory rotary (MSMT) nozzles	76%
Stream rotor nozzle	73%
Microspray	76%
Bubblers	77%
Drip emitter	81%
Subsurface drip	81%

<sup>d</sup> Estimated Total Water Use (ETWU) is the annual gallons required

$$\text{ETWU} = (\text{ETo}) \times (0.62) \times (\text{ETAF} \times \text{Area})$$

where, ETo = annual evapotranspiration rate in inches per year  
 0.62 = factor used to convert inches per year to gallons per square foot  
 ETAF = plant factor ÷ irrigation efficiency

<sup>e</sup> Average ETAF for Regular Landscape Areas must be 0.55 or below for residential areas, and 0.45 or below for nonresidential areas.

<sup>f</sup> Maximum Allowed Water Allowance (MAWA) is the annual gallons allowed

$$\text{MAWA} = (\text{ETo}) \times (0.62) \times [(\text{ETAF} \times \text{LA}) + ((1-\text{ETAF}) \times \text{SLA})]$$

where, ETo = annual evapotranspiration rate in inches per year  
 0.62 = factor used to convert inches per year to gallons per square foot  
 ETAF = plant factor ÷ irrigation efficiency  
 LA = total (site wide) landscape area in square feet  
 SLA = total special landscape area

**Appendix D: Reference Evapotranspiration Table**

**REFERENCE EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (ET<sub>O</sub>) TABLE**

<b>City</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Annual Total (inches per year)</b>
<b>Aliso Viejo</b>	2.6	2.5	3.6	4.3	5.1	5.1	5.6	5.6	4.7	3.4	2.6	2.0	47.1
<b>Anaheim</b>	2.7	2.7	3.3	4.6	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.1	3.4	2.6	2.0	49.2
<b>Atwood</b>	2.7	2.8	3.5	4.9	5.6	6.2	6.5	6.5	5.5	3.6	2.7	2.0	52.5
<b>Balboa</b>	2.6	2.4	3.4	4.2	4.9	4.5	5.1	5.1	4.4	3.3	2.5	2.0	44.4
<b>Balboa Island</b>	2.6	2.4	3.4	4.2	4.9	4.6	5.2	5.2	4.5	3.3	2.5	2.0	44.7
<b>Brea</b>	2.7	2.8	3.4	4.8	5.5	6.0	6.4	6.4	5.4	3.6	2.7	2.0	51.8
<b>Buena Park</b>	2.6	2.5	3.6	4.4	5.3	5.3	6.0	5.8	4.9	3.5	2.5	2.0	48.4
<b>Capistrano Beach</b>	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.2	5.0	4.7	5.3	5.3	4.6	3.3	2.5	2.0	45.4
<b>Corona Del Mar</b>	2.6	2.5	3.4	4.2	4.9	4.6	5.2	5.2	4.5	3.3	2.5	2.0	44.9
<b>Costa Mesa</b>	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.2	5.0	4.8	5.4	5.3	4.6	3.3	2.5	2.0	45.6
<b>Coto De Caza</b>	2.6	2.5	3.7	4.5	5.5	5.6	6.2	6.1	5.1	3.6	2.6	2.0	49.8
<b>Cypress</b>	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.3	5.2	5.1	5.7	5.6	4.7	3.4	2.5	2.0	47.2
<b>Dana Point</b>	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.2	4.9	4.7	5.2	5.2	4.5	3.3	2.5	2.0	45.1
<b>El Modena</b>	2.7	2.7	3.4	4.7	5.4	5.9	6.2	6.2	5.3	3.5	2.7	2.0	50.7
<b>Foothill Ranch</b>	2.6	2.5	3.7	4.5	5.5	5.6	6.3	6.1	5.1	3.6	2.6	2.0	50.1
<b>Fountain Valley</b>	2.7	2.6	3.2	4.4	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.4	4.8	3.2	2.6	2.0	46.0
<b>Fullerton</b>	2.7	2.7	3.3	4.6	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.2	3.4	2.6	2.0	49.7
<b>Garden Grove</b>	2.7	2.7	3.2	4.5	5.0	5.2	5.5	5.6	4.9	3.3	2.6	2.0	47.2
<b>Huntington Beach</b>	2.6	2.5	3.4	4.2	4.9	4.7	5.3	5.2	4.5	3.3	2.5	2.0	45.0
<b>Irvine (North)</b>	2.6	2.5	3.7	4.5	5.4	5.5	6.1	6.0	5.0	3.6	2.6	2.1	49.5
<b>Irvine (South)</b>	2.6	2.5	3.6	4.4	5.3	5.2	5.8	5.7	4.8	3.4	2.6	2.0	47.9

City	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Total (inches per year)
La Habra	2.6	2.5	3.7	4.5	5.6	5.6	6.4	6.2	5.1	3.6	2.6	2.0	50.4
La Palma	2.6	2.5	3.6	4.4	5.3	5.2	5.8	5.7	4.8	3.4	2.5	2.0	47.8
Ladera Ranch	2.6	2.5	3.6	4.4	5.3	5.3	5.9	5.8	4.9	3.5	2.6	2.1	48.4
Laguna (South)	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.3	5.1	4.9	5.5	5.5	4.7	3.4	2.5	2.0	46.5
Laguna Beach	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.3	5.1	4.9	5.5	5.4	4.6	3.4	2.5	2.0	48.4
Laguna Niguel	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.3	5.1	4.9	5.5	5.5	4.7	3.4	2.5	2.0	46.5
Laguna Woods	2.6	2.5	3.6	4.4	5.3	5.2	5.8	5.7	4.9	3.5	2.6	2.0	48.0
Lake Forest	2.6	2.5	3.7	4.4	5.4	5.4	6.1	5.9	5.0	3.5	2.6	2.1	49.2
Lido Isle	2.6	2.4	3.4	4.2	4.9	4.6	5.1	5.1	4.4	3.3	2.5	2.0	44.4
Los Alamitos	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.3	5.1	4.9	5.5	5.4	4.6	3.4	2.5	2.0	46.4
Midway City	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.3	5.1	4.9	5.5	5.5	4.7	3.4	2.5	2.0	46.5
Mission Viejo	2.6	2.5	3.7	4.4	5.4	5.4	6.0	5.9	4.9	3.5	2.6	2.0	48.9
Monarch Bay	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.2	4.9	4.7	5.2	5.2	4.5	3.3	2.5	2.0	45.1
Newport Beach	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.2	5.0	4.7	5.3	5.3	4.5	3.3	2.5	2.0	45.4
Orange	2.7	2.7	3.3	4.6	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.2	3.4	2.7	2.0	49.7
Placentia	2.7	2.7	3.4	4.7	5.4	5.9	6.2	6.2	5.3	3.5	2.7	2.0	50.9
Rancho Santa Margarita	2.6	2.5	3.7	4.4	5.5	5.5	6.1	6.0	5.0	3.6	2.6	2.0	49.5
Rossmoor	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.3	5.1	4.9	5.5	5.4	4.6	3.4	2.5	2.0	46.4
San Clemente	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.3	5.1	4.9	5.4	5.4	4.7	3.4	2.6	2.0	46.4
San Juan Capistrano	2.6	2.5	3.6	4.4	5.4	5.4	6.0	5.9	4.9	3.5	2.6	2.0	48.8
Santa Ana	2.6	2.6	3.4	4.5	5.2	5.3	5.7	5.7	4.9	3.4	2.6	2.0	47.8
Seal Beach	2.6	2.5	3.4	4.2	5.0	4.7	5.3	5.3	4.5	3.3	2.5	2.0	45.4
Silverado Canyon	2.6	2.5	3.7	4.5	5.6	5.8	6.5	6.3	5.2	3.6	2.6	2.0	51.0
Stanton	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.3	5.2	5.1	5.7	5.6	4.7	3.4	2.5	2.0	47.4

<b>City</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Annual Total (inches per year)</b>
<b>Sunset Beach</b>	2.6	2.5	3.4	4.2	5.0	4.7	5.3	5.2	4.5	3.3	2.5	2.0	45.0
<b>Surfside</b>	2.6	2.5	3.4	4.2	5.0	4.7	5.3	5.2	4.5	3.3	2.5	2.0	45.0
<b>Trabuco Canyon</b>	2.6	2.5	3.7	4.5	5.5	5.6	6.2	6.1	5.1	3.6	2.6	2.0	49.8
<b>Tustin</b>	2.7	2.7	3.3	4.6	5.3	5.6	5.9	5.9	5.1	3.4	2.7	2.0	49.2
<b>Villa Park</b>	2.7	2.7	3.4	4.7	5.4	5.9	6.2	6.2	5.3	3.5	2.7	2.0	50.8
<b>Westminster</b>	2.6	2.5	3.5	4.3	5.1	4.9	5.5	5.5	4.7	3.4	2.5	2.0	46.5
<b>Yorba Linda</b>	2.7	2.8	3.5	4.9	5.7	6.3	6.6	6.6	5.6	3.7	2.7	2.0	53.1

\* The values in this table were derived from California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) Spatial CIMIS data by zip code. Cities with multiple zip codes present monthly averages.



**Appendix E: Certificate of Completion**

**LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

I hereby certify that:

(1) I am a professional appropriately licensed in the State of California to provide professional landscape design services for: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (project name, mailing address and telephone).

(2) The landscape project for the property located at \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Los Alamitos, Ca 90720 (provide street address or parcel number(s)) was installed by me or under my supervision.

(3) The landscaping for the identified property has been installed in substantial conformance with the approved Landscape Documentation Package and complies with the requirements of the City of Los Alamitos Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Municipal Code Sections 13.05) and the City of Los Alamitos Guidelines for Implementation of the City of Los Alamitos Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance for the efficient use of water in the landscape.

(4) The following elements are attached hereto:

- a. Irrigation scheduling parameters used to set the controller;
- b. Landscape and irrigation maintenance schedule;
- c. Irrigation audit report; and,
- d. Soil analysis report, if not submitted with Landscape Documentation Package, and documentation verifying implementation of the soil report recommendations.

(5) The site installation complies with the following:

- a. The required irrigation system has been installed according to approved plans and specifications and if applicable, any prior approved irrigation system alternatives.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No

- b. Sprinklers comply with ASABE/ICC 802-2014 Landscape Irrigation Sprinkler & Emitter Standard.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No

(6) The information I have provided in this Landscape Installation Certificate of Completion is true and correct and is hereby submitted in compliance with the City of Los Alamitos Guidelines for Implementation of the City of Los Alamitos Water Efficient Landscape

Ordinance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

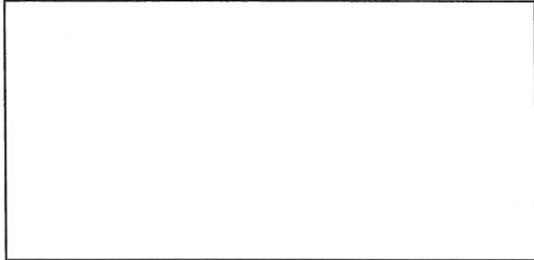
\_\_\_\_\_  
License Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

Landscape Design Professional's Stamp  
(If Appropriate)





## Appendix F: Definitions

### DEFINITIONS

The terms used in these Guidelines have the meaning set forth below:

“*Aggregate*” area pertains to production home neighborhoods, *common interest developments*, or other situations where multiple parcels are undergoing landscape development as one project, but may eventually be individually owned or maintained.

“*Backflow prevention device*” means a safety device used to prevent pollution or contamination of the water supply due to the reverse flow of water from the irrigation system.

“*Check valve*” or “*anti-drain valve*” means a valve located under a *sprinkler head*, or other location in the irrigation system, to hold water in the system to prevent drainage from *sprinkler heads* when the sprinkler is off.

“*Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor*” means a *person* certified to perform landscape irrigation audits by an accredited academic institution, a professional trade organization or other program such as the US Environmental Protection Agency’s WaterSense irrigation auditor certification program and Irrigation Association’s Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor program.

“*Certification of Design*” means the certification included as Exhibit E of these Guidelines that must be included in the *Landscape Documentation Package* pursuant to Section 2.1 of these Guidelines.

“*City*” means the *City* of Stanton or its authorized designee.

“*Common interest developments*” means community apartment projects, condominium projects, planned developments, and stock cooperatives per Civil Code Section 1351

“*Distribution Uniformity*” or “*DU*” is a measure of how uniformly an irrigation head applies water to a specific target area and theoretically ranges from zero to 100 percent.

“*Drip*” irrigation means any non-spray *low volume irrigation* system utilizing emission devices with a *flow rate* measured in gallons per hour. *Low volume irrigation* systems are specifically designed to apply small volumes of water slowly at or near the root zone of plants.

“*Emitter*” means a *drip* irrigation emission device that delivers water slowly from the system to the soil.



“*Estimated Applied Water Use*” or “*EAWU*” means the annual total amount of water estimated to keep plants in a healthy state. It is based on factors such as *reference evapotranspiration rate*, the size of the *landscape area*, *plant water use factors*, and the *irrigation efficiency* within each *hydrozone*.

“*Evapotranspiration adjustment factor*” or “*ETAF*” means a factor of 0.7, that, when applied to *reference evapotranspiration*, adjusts for *plant factors* and *irrigation efficiency*, two major influences upon the amount of water that needs to be applied to the landscape. A combined plant mix with a site-wide average of 0.5 is the basis of the *plant factor* portion of this calculation. For purposes of the ETAF, the average *irrigation efficiency* is 0.71. Therefore, the ET Adjustment Factor is  $(0.7) = (0.5/0.71)$ . ETAF for a Special Landscape Area shall not exceed 1.0. ETAF for existing non-rehabilitated landscapes is 0.8.

“*Evapotranspiration rate*” means the quantity of water evaporated from adjacent soil and other surfaces and transpired by plants during a specified time.

“*Flow rate*” means the rate at which water flows through pipes, *valves* and emission devices, measured in gallons per minute, gallons per hour, or cubic feet per second.

“*Hardscapes*” means any durable material or feature (*pervious* and *non-pervious*) installed in or around a *landscape area*, such as pavements or walls. Pools and other *water features* are considered part of the *landscape area* and not considered *hardscapes* for purposes of these Guidelines.

“*Greywater*” means a system intreated wastewater that has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge, has not been affected by infectious, contaminated, or unhealthy bodily wastes, and does not present a threat from contamination by unhealthy processing, manufacturing, or operating wastes. *Greywater* includes, but is not limited to, wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines. And laundry tubs, but does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers as per the Health and Safety Code (Section 17922.12). *Greywater* systems promote the efficient use of water and are encouraged to assist in on-site landscape irrigation. All *greywater* systems shall conform to the California Plumbing Code (Title 24, Part 5, Chapter 16) and any applicable local ordinance standards.

“*Hydrozone*” means a portion of the *landscape area* having plants with similar water needs and typically irrigated by one *valve/controller station*. A *hydrozone* may be irrigated or non-irrigated.

“*Infiltration rate*” means the rate of water entry into the soil expressed as a depth of water per unit of time (e.g., inches per hour).

“*Invasive*” plants species or “*noxious*” means species of plants not historically found in California that spread outside cultivated areas and can damage environmental or economic



resources. *Invasive plant species* may be regulated by county agricultural agencies as *noxious species*.

“*Irrigation audit*” means an in-depth evaluation of the performance of an irrigation system conducted by a *Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor*. An *irrigation audit* includes, but is not limited to: inspection, system tune-up, system test with *distribution uniformity* or emission uniformity, reporting *overspray* or *runoff* that causes overland flow, and preparation of an irrigation schedule.

“*Irrigation Management Efficiency*” or “*IME*” means the measurement used to calculate the *irrigation efficiency* of the irrigation system for a landscaped project. A 90% *IME* can be achieved by using evapotranspiration controllers, soil moisture sensors, and other methods that will adjust irrigation run times to meet plant water needs.

“*Irrigation efficiency*” or “*IE*” means the measurement of the amount of water beneficially used divided by the amount of water applied to a *landscape area*. *Irrigation efficiency* is derived from measurements and estimates of irrigation system characteristics and management practices. The minimum average *irrigation efficiency* for purposes of these *Guidelines* is 0.71. Greater *irrigation efficiency* can be expected from well designed and maintained systems. The following *irrigation efficiency* may be obtained for the listed irrigation heads with an *IME* of 90%:

Irrigation Method	DU <sub>LQ</sub>	DU <sub>LH</sub> *	EU	IE**
Spray nozzles	65%	79%		71%
High efficiency spray nozzles	70%	82%		73%
Multi stream/Multi trajectory rotary (MSMT) nozzles	75%	85%		76%
Stream rotor nozzle	70%	82%		73%
Microspray	75%	85%		76%
Bubblers			85%	77%
Drip emitter			90%	81%
Subsurface drip			90%	81%

\*DU<sub>LH</sub> = .386 + (.614)(DU<sub>LQ</sub>)

\*\* IE (spray) = (DU<sub>LH</sub>)(IME)

\*\* IE (drip) = Emission uniformity (EU)(IME)

“*Landscape coefficient*” (*K<sub>L</sub>*) is the product of a *plant factor* multiplied by a density factor and a *microclimate* factor. The *landscape coefficient* is derived to estimate water loss from irrigated *landscape areas* and *special landscape areas*.

“*Landscape Documentation Package*” means the package of documents that a *project applicant* is required to submit to the *City* pursuant to Section 2.1 of these *Guidelines*.



“*Landscape Installation Certificate of Completion*” means the certificate included as Exhibit F of these *Guidelines* that must be submitted to the *City* pursuant to Section 2.7(a)(1) of hereof.

“*Landscape professional*” means a licensed *landscape architect*, licensed landscape contractor, or any other *person* authorized to design a landscape pursuant to Sections 5500.1, 5615, 5641, 5641.1, 5641.2, 5641.3, 5641.4, 5641.5, 5641.6, 6701, 7027.5 of the California Business and Professions Code, Section 832.27 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, and Section 6721 of the California Food and Agriculture Code.

“*Landscape area*” means all the planting areas, *turf* areas, and *water features* in a landscape design plan subject to the *Maximum Applied Water Allowance* and *Estimated Applied Water Use* calculations. The *landscape area* does not include footprints of buildings or structures, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, decks, patios, gravel or stone walks, other *pervious* or *non-pervious hardscapes*, and other non-irrigated areas designated for non-development (e.g., open spaces and existing native vegetation).

“*Lateral line*” means the water delivery pipeline that supplies water to the *emitters* or sprinklers from the *valve*.

“*Low volume irrigation*” means the application of irrigation water at low pressure through a system of tubing or *lateral lines* and low volume *emitters* such as drip, drip lines, and bubblers. *Low volume irrigation* systems are specifically designed to apply small volumes of water slowly at or near the root zone of plants.

“*Low volume overhead irrigation*” means aboveground irrigation heads with an upper flow limit of 0.5 GPM.

“*Main line*” means the pressurized pipeline that delivers water from the water source to the *valve* or outlet.

“*Manual Isolation Valve*” means a valve such as a gate valve, ball valve, or butterfly valve installed downstream of the point of connection of the water supply to shutdown water flow through mainline piping for routine maintenance and emergency repair.

“*Master shut-off valve*” an electronic valve such as a solenoid valve installed as close as possible to the point of connection and is used in conjunction with a flow sensor and flow monitoring controller technology to automatically shutdown system wide water flow in the event of high flow conditions such as mainline pipe break.

“*Maximum Applied Water Allowance*” or “*MAWA*” means the upper limit of annual applied water for the established *landscape area*, as specified in Section 2.2 of these *Guidelines*. It is based upon the area’s *reference evapotranspiration*, the *ETAF*, and the size of the *landscape*



area. The *Estimated Applied Water Use* shall not exceed the *Maximum Applied Water Allowance*.

“*Microclimate*” means the climate of a small, specific area that may contrast with the climate of the overall landscape area due to factors such as wind, sun exposure, plant density, or proximity to reflective surfaces.

“*Mulch*” means any organic material such as leaves, bark, straw or compost, or inorganic mineral materials such as rocks, gravel, or decomposed granite left loose and applied to the soil surface for the beneficial purposes of reducing evaporation, suppressing weeds, moderating soil temperature, and preventing soil erosion.

“*Non-pervious*” means any surface or natural material that does not allow for the passage of water through the material and into the underlying soil.

“*Operating pressure*” means the pressure at which the parts of an irrigation system of sprinklers are designed to operate at by the manufacturer

“*Overspray*” means the irrigation water which is delivered beyond the target area.

“*Person*” means any natural person, firm, joint venture, joint stock company, partnership, public or private association, club, company, corporation, business trust, organization, public or private agency, government agency or institution, school district, college, university, any other user of water provided by the *City* or the *local water purveyor*, or the manager, lessee, agent, servant, officer, or employee of any of them or any other entity which is recognized by law as the subject of rights or duties.

“*Pervious*” means any surface or material that allows the passage of water through the material and into the underlying soil.

“*Plant factor*” or “*plant water use factor*” is a factor, when multiplied by *ET<sub>o</sub>*, that estimates the amount of water needed by plants. For purposes of this *Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance*, the *plant factor* range for low water use plants is 0 to 0.3; the *plant factor* range for moderate water use plants is 0.4 to 0.6; and, the *plant factor* range for high water use plants is 0.7 to 1.0. *Plant factors* cited in these *Guidelines* are derived from the Department of Water Resources 2000 publication “Water Use Classification of Landscape Species.”

“*Precipitation rate*” means the rate of application of water measured in inches per hour.

“*Project applicant*” means the *person* submitting a *Landscape Documentation Package* required under Section 2.1 to request a permit, plan check, or design review from the local agency. A *project applicant* may be the property owner or his or her designee.

“*Property owner*” or “*owner*” means the record owner of real property as shown on the most recently issued equalized assessment roll.



“*Reference evapotranspiration*” or “*ET<sub>o</sub>*” means a standard measurement of environmental parameters which affect the water use of plants. *ET<sub>o</sub>* is given expressed in inches per day, month, or year as represented in Appendix C of these Guidelines, and is an estimate of the evapotranspiration of a large field of four to seven-inch tall, cool-season grass that is well watered. *Reference evapotranspiration* is used as the basis of determining the *Maximum Applied Water Allowances*.

“*Recycled water*” or “*reclaimed water*” means treated or recycled waste water of a quality suitable for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation and *water features*. This water is not intended for human consumption.

“*Runoff*” means water which is not absorbed by the soil or landscape to which it is applied and flows from the landscape area. For example, *runoff* may result from water that is applied at too great a rate (application rate exceeds *infiltration rate*) or when there is a slope.

“*Special Landscape Areas*” or “*SLA*” means an area of the landscape dedicated solely to edible plants such as orchards and vegetable gardens, areas irrigated with *recycled water*, *water features* using *recycled water*, and areas dedicated to active play such as community pools and spas, parks, sports fields, golf courses, and where *turf* provides a playing surface.

“*Sprinkler head*” means a device which delivers water through a nozzle.

“*Static water pressure*” means the pipeline or municipal water supply pressure when water is not flowing.

“*Station*” means an area served by one *valve* or by a set of *valves* that operate simultaneously.

“*Swing joint*” means an irrigation component that provides a leak-free connection between the emission device and lateral pipeline to allow movement in any direction and to prevent equipment damage.

“*Turf*” means a ground cover surface of mowed grass. Annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, Perennial ryegrass, Red fescue, and Tall fescue are cool-season grasses. Bermudagrass, Kikuyugrass, Seashore Paspalum, St. Augustinegrass, Zoysiagrass, and Buffalo grass are warm-season grasses.

“*Valve*” means a device used to control the flow of water in an irrigation system.

“*Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance*” means Ordinance No. 968, adopted by the City Council on November 18, 2009, and codified in the Municipal Code in Chapter 20.315 LANDSCAPING STANDARDS.



“*Water Efficient Landscape Worksheets*” means the worksheets required to be completed pursuant to Section 2.2 of these *Guidelines* and which are included in Appendix B hereof.

“*Water feature*” means a design element where open water performs an aesthetic or recreational function. *Water features* include ponds, lakes, waterfalls, fountains, artificial streams, spas, and swimming pools (where water is artificially supplied). The surface area of *water features* is included in the high water use *hydrozone* of the *landscape area*. Constructed wetlands used for on-site wastewater treatment, habitat protection, or storm water best management practices that are not irrigated and used solely for water treatment or storm water retention are not *water features* and, therefore, are not subject to the water budget calculation.

“*Watering window*” means the time of day irrigation is allowed.

“*WUCOLS*” means the Water Use Classification of Landscape published by the University of California Cooperative Extension, the Department of Water Resources, and the Bureau of Reclamation, 2000. [www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/wucols00](http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/wucols00)



## Appendix G: Irrigation Plan Checklist

This is a voluntary compliance tool template developed by the Irrigation Association.

### IRRIGATION PLAN CHECKLIST

Please complete the following checklist by checking all appropriate categories under APPLICANT column, indicating compliance with these content requirements. All submitted plans shall contain the following information:

LANDSCAPE PLAN NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant		Planner
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Prevailing winds	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Slope aspect and degree of slope	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Soil type and infiltration rate	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Vegetation type	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Microclimates	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Expansive or hazardous soil conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Water harvesting potential	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Available water supply, including non-potable and recycled water	<input type="checkbox"/>
All pertinent system information is indicated, including:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Irrigation zones substantially corresponding to hydrozones on the landscape plan and labeled by precipitation rates and method of application	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Water meters	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Tap-in location	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Static water pressure at the point of connection	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. System controller	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Rain sensor/shut-off device	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Backflow preventers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Shut-off valves and zone control valves	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Main line and lateral piping	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	18. Sprinkler heads	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	19. Bubblers and drip irrigation tubing runs	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	20. Type and size of main irrigation system components	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	21. Total required operating pressure for each control valve/zone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	22. Graphic depiction of the locations of irrigation system components	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	23. Total required operating pressure for each control valve/zone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	24. Any supplemental stormwater and/or runoff harvesting	<input type="checkbox"/>
System design is in conformance with the following standards:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	25. Certification of Professional Qualifications, attached	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	26. Pedestrian surfaces located on plan	<input type="checkbox"/>



CITY OF  
**Los Alamitos**  
*California*

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- |                          |   |                          |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27. Equipment installed flush with grade for safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28. Compliance with local codes                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29. Overspray onto impervious areas minimized       | <input type="checkbox"/> |



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**Appendix H: Inspection Affidavit**

This is a voluntary compliance tool template developed by the Irrigation Association.



## IRRIGATION INSPECTION AFFIDAVIT

(To be submitted in conformance with Code Section 20.315.050)

City File No: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspected by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Individual) (Firm)

Dates of Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<b>A. Inspection during construction to check main line in open trench:</b>	<b>DATE INSPECTED:</b> _____	
1. Location of main line conforms to as-built plan	_____	_____
2. Size of main line conforms to plan	_____	_____
3. Depth of main line conforms to plan	_____	_____
4. Main line condition is undamaged	_____	_____
5. Main line pressure tested with water and meter to check for visible leaks	_____	_____
6. Attach notable changes to the approved plan	_____	_____
<b>B. Inspection after completion of system installation (prior to seed or sod)</b>	<b>DATE INSPECTED:</b> _____	
1. Settling along trenches is absent	_____	_____
2. System components (i.e., controller, backflow preventer, rain sensor, etc.) installed as specified	_____	_____
3. Rotary heads pressure tested	_____	_____
4. System activated for observation of compliance	_____	_____
5. Landscape components are not blocking application	_____	_____
6. Each station complies with design / as-built plan	_____	_____
7. Matched precipitation rates provided by zone	_____	_____
8. As-built plan provided to owner	_____	_____
9. Specific observations attached as needed	_____	_____

I hereby certify that this project was inspected within the limits of customary access for compliance with the approved Irrigation Plan on file in City Planning, and under my Direct Supervision. I am qualified to submit this Irrigation Inspection Affidavit based on the qualification listed below:

Licensed Landscape Architect (of Record)       Registered Professional Engineer of Record

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Licensed No. \_\_\_\_\_

State Agency Phone No. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Certified Irrigation Designer of Record The Irrigation Association      Year: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date