

California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance 2015

BF BASICS SUMMARY

Introduction

The following chart has been put together by StopWaste.Org to compare the Bay-Friendly Basics Version 2.1 December 2011 to the July 15, 2015 State's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO). The new WELO already includes or exceeds five out of the nine Bay-Friendly Basics. For the full WELO text go to www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/

#	BAY-FRIENDLY BASIC MEASURE	INCLUDED IN WELO 2015?
1	Mulch. All soil on site is protected with a minimum of 3 inches of mulch after construction	Yes.
2	Amend the Soil with Compost Before Planting. Compost is specified as the soil amendment at the rates indicated by a soil analysis to bring the soil organic matter content to a minimum of 3.5% by dry weight or 1 inch of compost. If the imported or site soil meets the organic content of 3.5% or more, then the requirement is waived	Yes. WELO is a higher bar and requires 4CY/1000sf which is 1.3" of compost.
3	Divert 50% of the Landscape Construction and Demolition Waste by Weight. Verify the local jurisdiction waste by weight. Verify the local jurisdictions minimum requirement and reporting procedures for construction and demolition (C&D recycling).	No. Include in a new section 495 C&D or include in Jurisdiction's C&D ordinance
4	Choose & Locate Plants to Grow to Natural Size. Species will be selected and plants spaced to allow them to grow to their natural size and shape. Pruning for structural integrity and health of plant is permitted. In addition, plants located in a row or adjacent to buildings, sidewalks or roads will be spaced between their minimum and maximum mature plant spread according to a published reference plant book and still fit into their planting area without significant overhang. Trees must meet the spacing requirements only when adjacent to buildings, in a row or other adjacent to other vertical obstructions. Vines are not subject to spacing requirements.	No. Include in section 492.6 1 plant material.
5	Do Not Plant Invasive Plant Species. None of the plant species listed by CAL-IPC's Don't Plant a Pest as invasive in the San Francisco Bay Area are included in the planting plan.	No. Include in section 492.6 1 plant material (G).

CALIFORNIA MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE 2015 SUMMARY OF CHANGES

#	BAY-FRIENDLY BASIC MEASURE	INCLUDED IN WELO 2015?
6	<p>Grow Drought Tolerant CA native, Mediterranean or Climate Adapted Plants. A minimum of 75% of the total number of plants in non-turf areas must be species that require no or little summer watering once established. Species should be adapted to the climate in which they will be planted, as referenced by a published plant reference. If plants are given a range of water needs from occasional to moderate for example, the landscape designer must determine if the plant will require either occasional or moderate watering based on site, soil and climate conditions and categorize the plant appropriately.</p>	<p>No. However water budget calculations meet intent of this credit and can replace this requirement.</p>
7	<p>Minimize the Lawn. A maximum of 25% of the total irrigated area is specified as turf, with sports or multiple use fields exempted.</p>	<p>Yes. WELO water budget is a higher bar.</p>
8	<p>Specify Weather –Based Irrigation Controllers (Automatic, Self-adjusting) that Includes a Moisture and or Rain Sensor shutoff. Weather based irrigation controllers, soil moisture based controllers or other self-adjusting irrigation controllers, shall be required for all irrigation systems.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
9	<p>Sprinkler & Spray Heads are Not Specified for Areas less than 8 Feet Wide. Sprinkler and spray head are not specified in areas less than or equal to 8 feet wide to prevent overspray and runoff. Acceptable alternatives include drip, subsurface drip, bubblers or no irrigation. Bubblers shall not exceed 1.5 gallons per minute per bubbler.</p>	<p>Yes. WELO is a higher bar. Require no spray in areas less than 10'.</p>