

City of San Leandro

Civic Center, 835 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, California 94577



January 27, 2010

Mr. Simon Eching
California Department of Water Resources
Office of Water Use Efficiency
901 P Street, Third Floor
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Notification of Adoption of a Bay-Friendly Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance by the City of San Leandro

Dear Mr. Eching,

We are writing to inform you that the City of San Leandro has adopted a Bay-Friendly Landscape Ordinance, in accordance with AB1881, Section 65597. That bill states that, on or before January 31, 2010, each City and County within California is subject to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) updated model water-efficient landscape ordinance (model WELO).

On January 19, 2010, the San Leandro City Council adopted its version of a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (SL-WELO) that incorporates certain Bay-Friendly Landscape (BFL) protocols developed by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (StopWaste.Org) and all parameters in the DWR model WELO. This ordinance will become effective at its second reading before Council on February 1, 2010. Since January 1, 2020, the DWR model WELO has been in effect and Council has been presented with that information.

In our SL-WELO ordinance, we transferred all technical parameters and applicable project thresholds from the DWR model WELO, as well as certain additional requirements from the StopWaste.Org BFL protocols, into our existing landscape regulations. These were accomplished as edits into the Zoning Code Article 19 Landscape Requirements. All other material found in the DWR model WELO, with BFL amendments, such as definitions, technical formulae and precipitation tables were adopted by resolution as technical reference materials. The adopted ordinance and a resolution that confirms the Bay Friendly version of the WELO as a reference document are attached.

Tony Santos, Mayor

City Council:

Michael J. Gregory;
Diana M. Souza;

Jim Prola;
Joyce R. Starosciak;

Ursula Reed;
Bill Stephens



By adopting the same requirements as the DWR model WELO, the City of San Leandro's SL-WELO will necessarily be at least as effective in terms of achieving water savings, per the following findings:

The SL-WELO is applicable to all new landscaping and existing landscaping, as outlined in the DWR model WELO. Provisions of the ordinance are applicable to new and rehabilitated commercial, industrial and developer-installed residential landscaping that is 2,500 square feet or larger and non-developer residential landscapes that are 5,000 s.f. or larger. Existing landscapes over 1 acre are subject to irrigation audits and all landscapes are subject to penalties for wasteful water usage.

The SL-WELO includes water budget and values that are consistent with the DWR WELO. Our ordinance uses the same parameters as the DWR WELO for development of a water budget.

The SL-WELO includes landscape parameters that are consistent with the DWR WELO. The SL WELO establishes the same thresholds for slope restrictions, width restrictions for turf, etc.

The SL-WELO includes additional requirements to further water conservation efforts. The SL-WELO includes additional more-restrictive measures, per the BFL protocols:

- limits the allowable turf area to 25% of the irrigated area;
- requires organic compost as the soil amendments;
- prohibits invasive species identified by CAL-IPC;
- requires 3 inches of mulch with recycled chipped wood or organic green waste;
- requires that at least 75% of the total number of plants in non-turf areas are those that require occasional, little or no summer water; and
- design standards include incorporation of rain harvesting or catchment technologies.

The City of San Leandro is committed to conserving water. The recently adopted Climate Action Plan explicitly states that a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance forms part of its goals and actions to achieve reductions in water and energy usage, contributing to reductions in carbon emissions. This ordinance exhibits this commitment and fulfills the requirements outlined in AB1881.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 510-577-3320 or our Senior Planner, Sally Barros, at 510-577-3458.

Sincerely,



Luke Sims

Community Development Director

Attachments:

**City of San Leandro Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance
Resolution adopting the Bay Friendly Version of the DWR model WELO as reference
document**