



CARSONSCAPE

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Compliance Handout

INTRODUCTION

Effective immediately, the City of Carson will begin implementing Executive Order B-29 issued by the State of California (DWR Title 23, Chapter 2.7). In California about half of the urban water is used for landscape irrigation. Substantial water savings can be gained by proper landscape design, installation and maintenance. California's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo), promotes efficient landscapes in new and rehabilitated landscapes.

New landscape and rehabilitated projects with 500 or more square feet of landscaping must meet water efficiency design standards requiring the issuance of a building or landscape permit, plan check or design review.

APPLICABILITY

The Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance shall apply to all of the following landscape projects:

1. Projects with an aggregate of new landscape area equal to or greater than 500 square feet requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check or design review.
2. Projects with an aggregate of new and/or retrofitted landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check or design review.

Any project with an aggregate landscape area that is less than 2,500 square feet may comply with the performance requirements of this code or conform to the prescriptive measures (See Prescriptive Compliance Worksheet).

COMPLIANCE

The City of Carson Community Development staff shall:

1. Provide the applicant with preliminary information on MWELo requirements;
2. Review the Landscape Documentation Package submitted by the project applicant;
3. Approve the Landscape Documentation Package that complies with MWELo requirements submitted by the project applicant;
4. Issue a permit for the MWELo landscape project or design review for the project applicant; and
5. Inspect the MWELo landscape project. MWELo landscape requires at least two inspections: The first inspection shall occur upon commencement of work and the second inspection shall occur at the conclusion of landscape installation (and before final building inspection – if applicable). Inspections are scheduled by the applicant. The inspection fee is \$70.00 and additional inspections may be necessary.

Upon approval of the Landscape Documentation Package, the project applicant shall:

1. Obtain a MWELo landscape permit and record the date of the permit in the Certificate of Completion;
2. Submit a copy of the approved Landscape Documentation Package along with the record drawings, and any other information to the property owner or his/her designee; and
3. Submit a copy of the Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet to the local water purveyor.