

California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance 2015

BAY-FRIENDLY BASICS & WELO COMPARISON

Introduction

StopWaste developed this information sheet to compare the Bay-Friendly Basics checklist (Version 2.1, December 2011) to California's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (revised July 15, 2015).

For more information about the Bay-Friendly Basics, go to stopwaste.org/preventing-waste/bay-friendly-basics. For StopWaste's summary of the WELO changes, go to stopwaste.org/welo. For the full text of the new WELO, go to water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance.

The new WELO includes or exceeds five out of the nine Bay-Friendly Basics. In the table below, the column on the right provides suggestions for how a jurisdiction's WELO could be adapted to comply with the Bay-Friendly Basics.

#	BAY-FRIENDLY BASIC MEASURE	INCLUDED IN WELO 2015?	HOW TO CHANGE WELO TO MEET BAY-FRIENDLY BASICS
1	Apply Mulch. All soil on site is protected with a minimum of 3 inches of mulch after construction.	Yes.	Delete exemption for creeping or rooting groundcovers.
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 4 CY/1000 sf, which is 1.3 in. of compost.	
3	Divert 50% of the Landscape Construction and Demolition Waste by Weight. Verify the local jurisdiction waste by weight. Verify the local jurisdiction's 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.

CALIFORNIA MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE 2015 SUMMARY OF CHANGES

#	BAY-FRIENDLY BASIC MEASURE	INCLUDED IN WELO 2015?	HOW TO CHANGE WELO TO MEET BAY-FRIENDLY BASICS
4	Choose and Locate Plants to Grow to Natural Size. Select species and space plants 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 brochure as invasive in the San Francisco Bay Area are included in the planting plan.	No.	Include in section 492.6 1 plant material (G).
6	Grow Drought Tolerant California 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.	No.	Water budget calculations meet intent of this credit and can replace this requirement.
7	Minimize the Lawn. A maximum of 25% of the total irrigated area is specified as turf, with sports or multiple use fields exempted.	Yes. WELO water budget is a higher bar.	
8	Specify Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers (Automatic, Self-Adjusting) That Include 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.	Yes.	
9	Sprinkler and Spray Heads Are Not Specified for Areas Less than 8 Feet Wide. Sprinkler and spray heads 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.	Yes. WELO sets a higher bar.	Require no spray in areas less than 10 ft.