

Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance (MWELo)

2015 Ordinance Applicability Guide

What is MWELo?

The Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) was established to promote water efficiency for new and rehabilitated landscapes. About half of California's urban water use is attributed to landscape irrigation and through proper landscape design, installation and maintenance, substantial water savings can be achieved.

What does this mean for me?

Depending on the type of landscape you work with, you may be subject to WELo requirements enforced by local land use agencies.

How do I know if I need to follow MWELo standards?

If you are pursuing a project associated with landscape subject to Planning Department review and/or subject to a city permit, MWELo may be applicable. Other exceptions and restrictions may apply. Follow the guide below to find out if your landscape meets the parameters of the MWELo requirements.

If your project is subject to MWELo, contact your local planning or building department for more information on your compliance requirements.

Step 1: Basic Applicability

Yes No

Is this a new construction with landscape area <u>greater than or equal to 500 square feet</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is this an existing property with a new landscape area <u>greater than or equal to 500 square feet</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is this a rehabilitated (re-landscaping or replacement) landscape project <u>greater than or equal to 2500 square feet</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you checked **yes** to any of the above boxes, proceed to Step 2. If you checked **no** to all, MWELo does **NOT APPLY**

Step 2: Exceptions to Applicability

Yes No

Is the landscape area a registered historical site ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the landscape area an ecological restoration project that does not require a permanent irrigation system site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the landscape area a part of a botanical garden or arboretum open to the general public?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you checked **no** to all of the above, proceed to Step 3. If you checked **yes** any of the boxes, MWELo does **NOT APPLY**

Step 3: Limited Applicability

Yes No

Is the landscape area a cemetery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the landscape area an existing landscape ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the landscape area a new landscape <u>500 to 2500 square feet</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the landscape area <u>less than 2500 square feet</u> and using graywater or rainwater to meet the landscape water needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you checked **yes** to any of the above, you may be subject to limited ordinance management and reporting. Check with local agency. If checked **no** to all of the above, you are subject to MWELo compliance.

Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance (MWELo)

2015 Ordinance Applicability Guide

Glossary	
MWELo	Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance
Existing Landscape	Landscape over one acre in size installed before December 1 2015
New Landscape	A new building or new development with associated landscaping that is subject to Planning Department review and/or subject to a city permit
Rehabilitated Landscape	Projects associated with re-landscaping or replacement landscaping subject to Planning Department review and/or subject to a city permit
Landscape Area	Planting areas, turf areas, and water features in a landscape design plan subject to the water allowance calculated through the ordinance [visit CA Water Resource website for equation to calculate water allowance]. The landscape area does not include footprints of buildings or structures, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, decks, patios, gravel or non-development (e.g. open spaces and existing native vegetation).
Landscape Project	Total area of landscape in a project as defined by the “landscape area”
Historical Site	An official location where pieces of political, military, cultural or social history have been preserved due to their cultural heritage value
Ecological Restoration Project	Projects where the site is intentionally altered to establish a defined, indigenous, historic ecosystem
Botanical Garden/Arboretum	Establishments where plants are grown for display to the public and often for scientific study
Special Landscape Area	Areas of the landscape dedicated solely to edible plants, recreational areas, areas irrigated with recycled water, or water features using recycled water
Graywater	Untreated wastewater that has not been contaminated by bodily waste (ex. Wastewater from clothes washers)
Rainwater	Water harvested from rain

For more information on the Model Water Efficiency Irrigation Ordinance:

- Visit the CA Department of Water Resources:
<http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/>
- Contact your local water agency or planning department for permits and additional local ordinance requirements (if applicable)
- WELo resources for projects in Alameda County: www.stopwaste.org/welo