



City of Sonora  
Community Development Department  
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**WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE  
PRESCRIPTIVE COMPLIANCE OPTION  
PROJECTS WITH AN AGGREGATE LANDSCAPE AREA  
EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 500 SQ. FT. ARE EXEMPT FROM REPORTING;  
FOR PROJECTS WITH AN AGGREGATE LANDSCAPE AREA OF MORE THAN 500  
SQ. FT. UP TO 2500 SQ. FT. COMPLETE THE FORM, SIGN & RETURN WITH THE  
COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTATION AS REQUESTED BELOW.**

(THIS OPTION CONTAINS PRESCRIPTIVE REQUIREMENTS WHICH MAY BE USED AS A COMPLIANCE OPTION TO THE MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE)

FOR PROJECTS GREATER THAN 501 SQUARE FEET UP TO 2500 SQ. FT. PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BELOW:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**IS THE AGGREGATE LANDSCAPE AREA EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 500 SQ. FT?  Yes  No**  
IF NO, **STOP**, sign the form and return it to the Community Development Department.

If available, assessor's parcel and/or lot number (s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Landscape Area (Square Feet), including a breakdown of turf and plant material:**  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Turf Sq. Ft.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Plant Material Sq. Ft.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Total Sq. Ft.)

*The Landscape area includes all the planting areas, turf areas, and water features in a landscape design plan subject to the Maximum Applied Water Allowance calculation. The landscape area does not include footprints of buildings or structures, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, decks, patios, gravel or stone walks, other pervious or non-pervious hardscapes, and other non-irrigated areas designated for non-development (e.g., open spaces and existing native vegetation).*

**Type & Description of Landscape:** (Check all that apply):

New     Rehabilitated     Private     Public     Cemetery     Homeowner Installed

**Water Supply Type:**  Public/Tuolumne Utilities District     Well     Recycled     Potable

**Project Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Applicant's Signature**

I agree to comply with the requirements of the requirements of the prescriptive compliance option to the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

I declare under penalty of perjury that I am the owner of said property. I agree to pay all fees and recoverable costs for processing the landscape plan check review.

Applicant's Signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IS MANDATORY AND MUST BE DOCUMENTED ON A LANDSCAPE PLAN ATTACHED HERETO IN ORDER TO USE THE PRESCRIPTIVE COMPLIANCE OPTION:**

- 1). **Submit a Landscape Documentation Package which includes the following elements:**
  - (a) date
  - (b) project applicant
  - (c) project address (if available, parcel and/or lot number(s))
  - (d) total landscape area (square feet), including a breakdown of turf and plant material
  - (e) project type (e.g., new, rehabilitated, public, private, cemetery, homeowner-installed)
  - (f) water supply type (e.g., potable, recycled, well) and identify the local retail water purveyor if the applicant is not served by a private well
  - (g) contact information for the project applicant and property owner
  - (h) applicant signature and date with statement, "I agree to comply with the requirements of the prescriptive compliance option to the MWELO"
  
- 2). **Incorporate compost at a rate of at least four cubic yards per 1,000 square feet to a depth of six inches into landscape area (unless contra-indicated by a soil test);**
  
- 3). **Plant material shall comply with all of the following:**
  - A. For residential areas, install climate adapted plants that require occasional, little or no summer water (Average WUCOLS) plant factor 0.3) for 75% of the plant area excluding edibles and areas using recycled water. For non-residential areas, install climate adapted plants that require occasional, little or no summer water (average WUCOLS plants factor 0.3) for 100% of the plants area excluding edibles and areas using recycled water;

- B. A minimum three inch (3") layer of mulch shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except in turf areas, creeping or rooting groundcovers, or direct seeding applications where mulch is contraindicated.

**4). Turf shall comply with all of the following:**

- A. Turf shall not exceed 25% of the landscape area in residential areas, and there shall be no turf in non-residential areas;
- B. Turf shall not be planted on sloped areas which exceed a slope of 1- foot vertical elevation change for every 4 feet of horizontal length;
- C. Turf is prohibited in parkways less than 10 feet wide, unless the park way is adjacent to a parking strip and used to enter and exit vehicles. Any turf in parkways must be irrigated by sub-subsurface irrigation or by other technology that creates no overspray or runoff.

**5). Irrigation Systems shall comply with the following:**

- A. Automatic irrigation controllers are required and must use evapotranspiration or soil moisture sensor data and utilize a rain sensor.
- B. Irrigation controllers shall be a type which does not lose programming data in the event the primary power source is interrupted.
- C. Pressure regulators shall be installed on the irrigation system to ensure the dynamic pressure of the system is within the manufacturers recommended pressure range.
- D. Manual shut-off valves (such as gate valve, ball valve, or butterfly valve) shall be installed as close as possible to the point of connection of the water supply.
- E. All irrigation emission devices must meet the requirements set in the ANSI standard, ASABE/ICC802-2014. "Landscape Irrigation Sprinkler and Emitter Standard". All sprinkler heads installed in the landscape must document a distribution uniformity low quarter of 0.65 or higher using the protocol defined in ASABE/ICC802-2014.
- F. Areas less than ten (10) feet in width in any direction shall be irrigated with subsurface irrigation or other means that produces no runoff or overspray.

**6). For non-residential projects with landscape areas of 1,000 sq. ft. or more, a private sub-meter(s) to measure landscape water use shall be installed.**

At the time of final inspection, the permit applicant must provide the owner of the property with a certificate of completion certificate of installation, irrigation schedule and a schedule of landscape and irrigation maintenance.