



City of Torrance

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Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance – Prescriptive Compliance Option Checklist

To reduce the complexity and costs for smaller landscape projects, the State of California allows landscapes between 500 and 2,499 square feet to comply either through meeting the full requirements of the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) or through this prescriptive compliance approach. The following contains a checklist of all the prescriptive requirements in accordance with the MWELO, Appendix D.

Please ensure your submittal includes the following:

A. Landscape Design Plan

Attach a landscape plan indicating the following:

- Turf areas
- High water use planting areas (WUCOLS plant factor 0.7 - 0.9)
- Moderate water use planting areas (WUCOLS plant factor 0.4 - 0.6)
- Low water use planting areas (WUCOLS plant factor 0.3 or lower)
- Water features including swimming pools
- Edible planting areas
- Areas irrigated with recycled water

B. Soil

- Incorporate compost at a rate of at least 4 cubic yards per 1,000 square feet to a depth of 6 inches into the landscape area (unless contra-indicated by a soil test). This project will apply _____ cubic yards of compost.
- A minimum 3-inch layer of recycled mulch shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except turf areas, or direct seeding applications where mulch is contraindicated.

C. Plants

All projects:

- No invasive plants are planted. No plant species listed by the California Invasive Plant Council's "Don't Plant a Pest" brochure as invasive in the Southern California Area shall be planted.

"Don't Plant a Pest" brochure can be found at <http://cal-ipc.org/landscaping/dpp/>

Residential projects only:

- 75% of landscape area shall consist of plants that use little or no summer water (WUCOLS plant factor of 0.3 or lower), excluding edibles or areas using recycled water.
- No more than 25% of the landscape area will be planted with high water using plants.

Non-residential projects only (including multifamily residential):

- 100% of the landscape area shall consist of plants that use little or no summer water (WUCOLS plant factor of 0.3 or lower), excluding edibles or areas using recycled water.



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Turf:

In nonresidential areas, turf is not used

In residential areas:

Turf, high water use plants, and water features shall, combined, not exceed 25% of the landscape area

Turf shall not be planted on slopes which exceed a slope of 1 foot vertical elevation change for every 4 feet or horizontal length

Turf is prohibited in parkways less than 10 feet wide. Exception: Parkway is adjacent to a parking strip and used to exit and enter vehicles AND turf is irrigated with subsurface irrigation

WUCOLS plants database can be found online at: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/>

D. Irrigation

Automatic irrigation controllers are required and must use evapotranspiration or soil moisture data and utilize a rain sensor.

Pressure regulators are installed on the irrigation system to ensure dynamic pressure of the components are within the manufacturer's recommended pressure range.

Manual-shut-off valves (such as gate, ball or butterfly valves) are installed as close as possible to the point of connection of the water supply.

All irrigation emission devices must meet the requirements set in the ANSI standard ASABE/ICC 802-2014 "Landscape Irrigation Sprinkler and Emitter Standard." All sprinkler heads installed must have a distribution uniformity low quarter of 0.65 or higher using the protocol defined in ASABE/ICC 802-2014.

Areas less than 10 feet in width in any direction shall be irrigated with subsurface irrigation or other means that produces no runoff or overspray.

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

E. Signature

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

Signature of Property Owner/Authorized Representative

Date