

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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(916) 653-5791



To: All California Cities and Counties

Subject: Reporting on Implementation of Water Efficient Landscape Ordinances

Governor Edmund G. Brown's April 1, 2015 Executive Order B-29-15 directed the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) by expedited regulation. The updated MWELO was approved by the California Water Commission on July 15, 2015. The adopted version was incorporated into the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 2.7 and goes into effect December 1, 2015. Click [here](#)<sup>1</sup> for further information and link to the adopted MWELO.

The MWELO requires all California cities and counties to adopt this ordinance or to adopt a single agency local ordinance by December 1, 2015. Local ordinances must be as effective as the MWELO in conserving water. Local agencies working together to develop a regional agency alliance ordinance have until February 1, 2016 to adopt a revised ordinance. For agencies who take no action, the revised MWELO becomes the default landscape ordinance for their community (per AB 1881 (2006), Laird).

The updated MWELO has new reporting requirements. Local agencies must provide an initial report on the status of their implementation and enforcement of their single agency local ordinances or regional agency alliance ordinances to DWR by December 31, 2015. Local agencies working together to develop a regional agency alliance ordinance must additionally report on the adoption by March 1, 2016. Subsequent reporting for all agencies is due by January 31 of each year thereafter, starting in 2017.

Section 495 of the MWELO defines the first reporting period as from December 1 to 28, 2015. For 2016 and subsequent years, local agencies will report on MWELO implementation for the entire calendar year. Per Executive Order B-29-15, DWR will compile the information received in the 2015 reports and submit a report on local agency adoption and implementation to the State Water Resources Control Board.

To simplify reporting, DWR has developed an Excel reporting template (see attached Excel form). Please fill it out completely and email it back to DWR at [WELo@water.ca.gov](mailto:WELo@water.ca.gov) with a copy of your ordinance. There is space on the form for any additional comments an agency may have.

Local agencies developing a regional agency alliance ordinance must also report by December 31, 2015. The December 1 to 28 reporting period will cover projects under their existing ordinance. The deadline for formal adoption of a regional ordinance by a local agency is February 1, 2016, with a secondary reporting deadline to DWR of March 1, 2016 (covering the period February 1 to 28, 2016).

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Saare-Edmonds at (916) 651-9676 or [Julie.Saare-Edmonds@water.ca.gov](mailto:Julie.Saare-Edmonds@water.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Brostrom", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Brostrom, Program Manager  
Water Use Efficiency Section

<sup>1</sup> See <http://wwwdwr.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/>