

MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE (MWEL0)



Governor Brown's Drought Executive Order of April 1, 2015 (EO B-29-15) directed DWR to update the State's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWEL0) through expedited regulation. The California Water Commission approved the revised Ordinance on July 15, 2015.

Which Projects are Subject to the Ordinance?

New development projects that include 500 sq. ft. or more of building construction are subject to the Ordinance. This applies to residential, commercial, industrial and institutional projects that require a permit, plan check or design review. The previous landscape size threshold for new development ranged from 2,500 to 5,000 sq. ft.

The size threshold for existing landscapes that are being rehabilitated has not changed, remaining at 2,500 sq. ft. Only rehabilitated landscapes that are associated with a building or landscape permit, plan check, or design review are subject to the Ordinance.

When Does the Ordinance go into Effect?

The State's Ordinance became effective by default on January 1, 2016. Go to the following link below for the updated MWEL0.

[California Code of Regulations Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 2.7. Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance](#)

What are the Significant Revisions?

More Efficient Irrigation Systems:

- Dedicated landscape water meters or submeters are required for residential landscapes over 5,000 sq. ft. and non-residential landscapes over 1,000 sq. ft.
- Irrigation systems are required to have pressure regulators and master shut-off valves
- All irrigation emission devices must meet the national standard stated in the Ordinance to ensure that only high efficiency sprinklers are installed.
- Flow sensors that detect and report high flow conditions due to broken pipes and/or popped sprinkler heads are required for landscape areas greater than 5,000 sq. ft.
- The minimum width of areas that can be overhead irrigated was changed from 8 ft. to 10 ft.; areas less than 10 ft. wide must be irrigated with subsurface drip or other technology that produces no over spray or runoff.

How can I get Additional Assistance?

Contact Cristina Graciano at (626) 258-8626 or via email at cgraciano@elmonteca.gov and request the City of El Monte's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Documentation Package to comply with the State's 2015 MWEL0 update.