

The City of Orange Guidelines for Water Efficient Landscapes

Beginning January 1, 2010, all California cities are required to adopt and use new guidelines or regulations that promote the use of water conserving landscaping and irrigation in new or rehabilitated landscaping. The purpose is to further water conservation in landscape design, installation and maintenance.

Who is affected?

Landscape projects (new or rehabilitation) that are otherwise subject to a discretionary approval of a landscape plan or require a ministerial permit for a landscape or water feature, including:

- Private non-residential (commercial/industrial) with a <u>landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet</u>.
- Property developers or managers of single-family and multi-family residential projects or complexes with a project landscape area <u>equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet</u>.
- <u>New installation</u> by individual homeowners on single-family or multi-family residential lots with a project landscape area <u>equal to or greater than 5,000 square feet</u>.

Landscape rehabilitation projects are subject to these standards when the modified landscape is greater than 2,500 square feet, represents at least 50% of the total landscaped area, and the modifications are planned to occur within one year. (Certain waivers may apply to a landscape rehabilitation project.)

Who is exempt?

• Registered local, state or federal historic sites, which means **Old Towne Orange** or a structure outside of Old Towne that is on a historic registry.

What is the procedure?

As your project proceeds through the review stage, the current process may require the submittal of a <u>preliminary landscape plan</u>. This will not change, but now the preliminary landscape plan will need to consider the requirements of the newly adopted guidelines for water efficient landscapes (<u>See Section 2.4 of guidelines</u>). Staff will determine if the project falls within the requirements of the guidelines. If so, a project condition will be attached to the approval that prior to permit issuance, compliance with the water efficient guidelines is required. Applicants are encouraged to review all aspects of the guidelines to fully understand what is required during project review as well as after approval.

What happens after approval?

Before a permit can be issued, applicants will be required to submit and receive approval of a <u>Landscape</u> <u>Documentation Package</u> (Section 2.1). Elements of this Package include determining water usage, soil management, the landscape plan, irrigation plan, and grading plan (if required). At completion of the landscaping for the project, the Landscape Architect will self-certify that the project has been completed in accordance with the approved plan and the water efficient guidelines.

All applicants are encouraged to review the <u>Water Efficient Guidelines</u>, which is available at the Community Development counter or on-line at www.cityoforange.org. (Click on City Departments/ Community Development/Plans and Documents) Staff is available to answer questions on the new guidelines.