



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 2/3/2010  
Agenda Placement: 10B

## Napa County Planning Commission Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Napa County Planning Commission  
**FROM:** John McDowell for Hillary Gitelman - Director  
Conservation, Development & Planning  
**REPORT BY:** John McDowell, Deputy Director - 299-1354  
**SUBJECT:** WELO - Water Efficient Landscape Regulations

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE REGULATIONS**

**Request:** Information item on new State mandated water efficient landscape regulations effective as of January 1, 2010.

**Staff Recommendation:** No action required.

**Staff Contact:** John McDowell, 299-1354, [jmcdowell@co.napa.ca.us](mailto:jmcdowell@co.napa.ca.us)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

AB 1881 (2006) requires local agencies to update their water efficient landscape regulations in conformance with a new model ordinance by January 1, 2010, or to implement the State's model ordinance instead. The State only recently completed updating its model ordinance, and did not provide local agencies with the time needed to develop and adopt local amendments as envisioned by AB 1881. As a result, in December, the Board of Supervisors elected to implement the State's model ordinance starting in January 2010, monitor its effectiveness over time, and consider at some future date whether local amendments are desirable. Local amendments would have to be at least as stringent as the State's model ordinance, but could be fine tuned to address local issues. One of the significant changes under the new model ordinance from that of the County's 1992 water efficient landscape ordinance, is that water efficient landscape performance standards and the certification requirement will now apply to single family residential projects, as well as to larger residential and commercial/industrial projects with landscaping components. Attached are materials staff is providing to the public and development community so that they are aware of these State mandates.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- A . Water Efficient Landscape - Public Handout
- B . Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Napa County Planning Commission: Approve

Reviewed By: John McDowell