



## WATER USE EFFICIENCY ORDINANCE GUIDE

### Municipal Water Conservation Ordinances

Water conservation ordinances, when administered properly, are a powerful mechanism to achieve passive water efficiency. Codifying water efficient strategies into law ensures that these effective practices will remain active and enforceable for many years to come.

The types of water use efficiency ordinances that the Upper District encourages cities to focus on enacting and implementing are:

#### 1. Retrofit on Resale -

A retrofit on resale ordinance requires that either the seller or the buyer of a building be required to replace inefficient plumbing fixtures - usually toilets, urinals, showerheads, and faucets -with efficient models at the time of resale. The ordinance may also include remodels.

Examples of Ordinance Language:

- ✓ City of San Diego Municipal Code (Chapter 14 Article 7 Division 4).
- ✓ City of Los Angeles Municipal Code, Water Closet, Urinal, and Showerhead Regulations, (Article II of Chapter XII).

#### 2. Water Waste Prevention -

A water waste prevention ordinance should cover both prohibiting water waste and water use inefficiencies within both new and existing development. Non-compliance with these provisions could be treated as municipal code violations.

Examples of water waste restrictions include:

- No hose washing of paved areas
- No overspray or runoff of water at any time
- Decorative fountains must have a water recirculation system
- Water leaks must be repaired within \_\_\_\_ hours
- Irrigation Times:
  - No irrigation of landscaped areas between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.;
  - No irrigation when wind is blowing or when it is raining;
- Hand washing of commercial and non-commercial privately owned vehicles must be done using a hand-held bucket and quick rinses using a hose with a positive shutoff nozzle;
- Commercial Car Wash and Laundry:
  - New commercial conveyor car wash and commercial laundry must use re-circulating water system;
  - All commercial conveyor car washes must install re-circulating water systems by July 1, 2014;
  - Restrictions on in-bay vehicle car wash facilities



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- Construction water will not result in runoff and recycled water is to be used when available;
- Fire hydrants are to be used only for fire fighting unless a permit has been obtained;
- Dining Establishments
  - Drinking water is to be served only upon request of customer;
  - Must use water-conserving pre-rinse spray valves effective January 1, 2010;
- Dining establishments and lodging establishments are required to post water conservation notices;
- Commercial lodging establishments are required to post notices giving guests option to not have daily laundry service;
- Single pass cooling systems prohibited in new buildings or in buildings expanding water service;
- Process water for business and industrial use shall be recycled to the greatest extent possible.

### Examples of Ordinance Language:

- ✓ City of San Diego Municipal Code, Water Waste Prohibitions (Chapter 6 Article 7 Division 38 §67.3803).
- ✓ Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Model Water Conservation Ordinance (Section VI.)

### 3. Landscape Model -

By Jan. 1, 2010 all cities and counties must have either adopted the State model water efficient landscape ordinance or a local ordinance that is “at least as effective as.”

#### Examples of Ordinance Language:

- ✓ City of Santa Monica Municipal Code, Green Building Landscape Design et al. (Chapter 8.108).
- ✓ California Department of Water Resources, Model Landscape Ordinance, <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/>

### 4. New Development –

A new development ordinance should consider including mandates above current plumbing codes for fixtures, requirement for dedicated irrigation meters, and required use of recycled water when feasible. )

#### Examples of Ordinance Language:

- ✓ City of Santa Monica Municipal Code, Green Building Standards Code (Chapter 8.106).
- ✓ City of Los Angeles Municipal Code, Water Efficiency Requirements for New Development and Renovation of Existing Buildings (Article V of Chapter XII).



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### 5. Water Shortage Measures

A water shortage response ordinance should outline measures that would be implemented at various stages/levels of a water shortage.

Examples of water shortage measures include:

- Reduction in the times and days per week when outdoor watering is permissible
- Cessation of all outdoor watering ornamental landscape irrigation during extreme water shortage conditions
- Restrictions and/or prohibition of filling/refilling pools, hot tubs, and/or ornamental lakes and ponds.
- Reduced time allotted for repairing leaks, breaks, water-related malfunctions (e.g. Repairs must be made within 48 hours during phase I of shortage, within 24 hours during phase 2, and within 12 hours during phase 3).
- Installation of flow restrictors on properties that repeatedly violate the terms of the water shortage ordinance.

Examples of Ordinance Language:

- ✓ City of San Diego Municipal Code, Water Waste Prohibitions (Chapter 6 Article 7 Division 38 §67.3805 - 67.3811).
- ✓ Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Model Water Conservation Ordinance (Section VII-IX.)