



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: NOVEMBER 26, 2018

ITEM NO: 10

SUBJECT: PLANNING CASE P18-0608 – AMENDMENT TO THE CITYWIDE DESIGN AND SIGN GUIDELINES TO INCLUDE WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION DESIGN GUIDELINES

ISSUE:

Receive and file a report on the amendment to the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines to include Water Efficient Landscape and Irrigation Design Guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Public Utilities receive and file a report on the amendment to the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines to include Water Efficient Landscape and Irrigation Design Guidelines.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2007, the City Council adopted Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines (Design Guidelines). The Design Guidelines are used to review the design of proposed developments in the City. The Design Guidelines reinforce the physical image of the City, and promote well-designed development that enhances neighborhoods, creates identity, and improves quality of life.

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-29-15 (EO B-29-15), which mandated water conservation efforts. These efforts included a requirement for local agencies to comply with the State's updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo), or adopt their own Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELo) to be at least as effective in conserving water as the MWELo.

On December 1, 2015, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 7310, which updated Zoning Code Chapter 19.570 – Water Efficient Landscaping and Irrigation, to comply with the State's stricter water efficiency standards.

In early 2016, the Community & Economic Development Department, in partnership with Riverside Public Utilities (RPU), retained the services of Architerra Design Group to develop tools that set clear design expectations, integrate best practices in landscape design, and make the adopted WELo customer friendly.

On September 20, 2018, the City Planning Commission recommended City Council approval of the proposed WELo Guidelines.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Guidelines (WELo Guidelines) supplement the City's WELo regulations, which are contained in Chapter 19.570 of the Zoning Code (Title 19 of the Riverside

Municipal Code). The WELO Guidelines provide a framework and illustrate how the WELO regulations are interpreted and applied. The WELO Guidelines provide narrative, and include illustrative and photographic examples of best practices in water efficient landscape design. They are a guide for developers and design professionals to achieve well designed landscapes that successfully reduce water usage, increase water efficiency, and promote conservation.

Working with three (3) water agencies serving the City (RPU, Western Municipal, and Eastern Municipal), Architerra completed the following:

1. Updated WELO Guidelines to reflect the new water efficiency requirements;
2. Revised the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines (Design Guidelines) to include references to water efficiency, and other minor revisions to provide clarity or implement best practices;
3. Updated the checklist used during landscape plan review; and
4. Provided example plans to illustrate contents for landscape plans.

The WELO Guidelines are proposed as a new Appendix (Appendix C) of the Design Guidelines. In addition to addressing the requirements of the WELO, the Guidelines include a climate appropriate landscape pallet of trees, shrubs, and groundcover. The following components/sections are included in the WELO Guidelines:

- Application of Guidelines;
- Planting Design;
- Irrigation Design;
- Landscape Irrigation Maintenance;
- Certificate of Compliance;
- Stormwater Management;
- Definitions of Landscape Terms;
- Examples and Worksheets for Calculation of Hydrozones; and
- Climate Appropriate Plants for Riverside (includes a plant list/palette for trees, shrubs ground cover, vines, and moderate water use turf varieties).

The proposed WELO Guidelines support, and compliment the WELO regulations in the Zoning Code. They do not add any requirements beyond those contained within the Zoning Code, and provide guidance on implementing the Code requirements. The WELO Guidelines facilitate compliance with state landscape, and irrigation requirements for new development in the City, and will promote substantial water savings.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

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Attachments:

1. Proposed Water Efficient Landscape Design Guidelines
2. Updated Water Landscape Plan Review Checklist

3. Single-Family Residential Landscape Guide
4. Single-Family Residential Landscape Checklist
5. Single-Family Residential Landscape Plans – Working Drawing Example
6. Commercial Landscape Guide
7. Commercial Landscape Checklist
8. Commercial Landscape Plans – Working Drawing Example
9. Presentation