

WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION DESIGN GUIDELINES

P18-0608 (AMD)

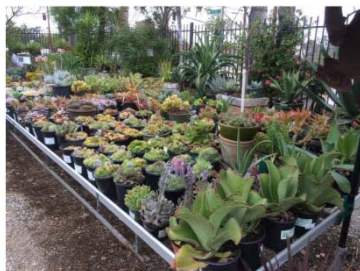
Community & Economic
Development Department

City Council
January 15, 2019

RiversideCA.gov

PROPOSAL

Water Efficient Landscape and Irrigation Design Guidelines (Amendment to the existing Citywide Design & Sign Guidelines).



2

RiversideCA.gov

BACKGROUND

1. November 2007 – Adopted Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines;
2. April 1, 2015 – Governor’s Executive Order B-29-15 mandated more stringent water efficient landscape and irrigation ordinance (MWELO) requirements;
3. December 1, 2015 – City adopted Ordinance No. 7310 to comply with state law. Ordinance updated Zoning Code Chapter 19.570 – *Water Efficient Landscaping and Irrigation (WELO)*;



3

RiversideCA.gov

BACKGROUND

4. Early 2016 – Community & Economic Development and Riverside Public Utilities initiated updates to the WELO Guidelines and tools to implement WELO requirements that would:
 - a. Reflect best practices in landscape design; and
 - b. Make the City’s WELO as customer friendly as possible.
5. September 20, 2018 – Planning Commission recommended City Council approval of the WELO Guidelines; and
6. November 26, 2018 - Riverside Public Utilities Board received and filed the staff report .



4

RiversideCA.gov

DISCUSSION

WELO Design Guidelines:

1. Guidance for implementation of the WELO, Chapter 19.570 of the Zoning Code;
2. Includes examples of best practices in water efficient landscape design; and
3. Guide for the public on how to achieve well designed water conserving landscapes.



DISCUSSION

WELO Design Guidelines:

1. Planting & Irrigation Design
2. Landscape Maintenance
3. Definitions/Landscape Terms
4. Climate Appropriate Plants for Riverside

TRANSFORM YOUR YARD INTO A WATER CONSERVING LANDSCAPE

| INEFFICIENT LANDSCAPE | BETTER | BEST |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Planting Method: The planting of large trees and shrubs in a row, often with a large lawn area, is inefficient because it requires a lot of water to maintain.</p> <p>Irrigation Method: The use of a traditional lawn irrigation system is inefficient because it waters the entire lawn, even if only a portion of it is planted.</p> <p>Water Conservation: The use of a traditional lawn irrigation system is inefficient because it wastes a lot of water.</p> | <p>Planting Method: The planting of a variety of plants, including drought-tolerant plants, is a better method because it requires less water to maintain.</p> <p>Irrigation Method: The use of a drip irrigation system is a better method because it waters only the plants that need it.</p> <p>Water Conservation: The use of a drip irrigation system is a better method because it conserves a lot of water.</p> | <p>Planting Method: The planting of a variety of plants, including drought-tolerant plants, is the best method because it requires the least water to maintain.</p> <p>Irrigation Method: The use of a smart irrigation system is the best method because it waters only the plants that need it, and it adjusts the watering schedule based on weather conditions.</p> <p>Water Conservation: The use of a smart irrigation system is the best method because it conserves the most water.</p> |
| <p>EXISTING RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION REFER TO SHEET 2</p> | <p>CONCEPT 1 RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION REFER TO SHEET 3</p> | <p>CONCEPT 2 RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION REFER TO SHEET 4</p> |

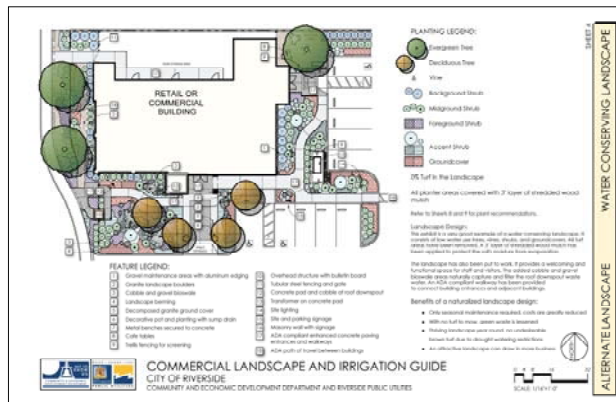
RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION GUIDE
CITY OF RIVERSIDE
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES



DISCUSSION

Additional Tools:

1. An updated "Administrative Landscape Plan Review Checklist";
2. Residential & Commercial Landscape Guides; and
3. Example plans for Residential & Commercial landscaping.



CONCLUSION

The Proposed Design Guidelines:

1. Are a tool for implementation of the WELO provisions, Chapter 19.570 – Zoning Code of the Riverside Municipal Code;
2. Do not add requirements beyond Zoning Code WELO provisions;
3. Facilitate compliance with state landscape, irrigation requirements; and
4. Promote substantial water savings.



RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. **DETERMINE** that the proposed project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act as it can be seen with certainty that it does not have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment (General Rule);
2. **APPROVE** Planning Case Number P18-0608 (Design Guidelines Amendment); and
3. **ADOPT** a Resolution amending the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines, to include Appendix C: Water Efficient Landscaping and Irrigation Guidelines, edits to the landscape sections of the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines, and other minor revisions for clarity and to include best practices.



9

RiversideCA.gov