

## City of Santa Rosa (City) - Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance: 2015 Revision Summary

On December 1, 2015 a revised Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance went into effect. All landscape projects within the City that require a building or grading permit, plan check, design review or utilities certificate are required to be in compliance. The following list is provided as a summary to highlight the main changes in the revised Ordinance:

### Soil Analysis Report:

- If a grading permit is required, the soil analysis report shall be submitted to the City with the Certificate of Completion. If a grading permit is not required, the soil analysis report shall be submitted to the City with the Landscape Documentation Package.
- Analysis must include: Soil texture, Infiltration rate, pH, total soluble salts, sodium, % organic matter, and recommendations

### Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA):

- Evapotranspiration Adjustment Factor = 0.55 for residential areas and .45 for non-residential areas
- Irrigation Efficiency = .75 for overhead spray devices and .81 for drip systems

### Landscape Design Plan:

- Identify location and details of storm water best management practices, including rainwater harvesting or catchment technologies and graywater system piping, components and areas of distribution
- Compacted soils must be transformed to a “friable” condition to maximize water retention
- Soil amendments must be incorporated according to recommendations of the soil analysis report and what is appropriate for the plants selected
- Plant factors include Very Low, Low, Moderate, and High water use categories
- Plant factors are referenced in the Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (<http://ucanr.edu/sites/wucols/>) Plant factors may also be obtained from horticultural researchers from academic institutions or nursery industry associations as approved by the California Department of Water Resources.
- Turf is not allowed in in street medians, traffic islands, planting strips or bulbouts of any size

### Irrigation Design Plan:

- Landscapes of 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup> or larger require a high-flow sensor and master shut-off valve to provide capability of shutting off the system
- All sprinkler heads installed in the landscape must document a distribution uniformity low quarter of 0.65 or higher

#### Grading Design Plan:

- A grading plan is required where slopes exceed 10% and bear the signature of a licensed professional as required by law.

#### Document for Compliance:

- Project applicant must submit documentation verifying implementation of soil analysis report recommendations to the City with Certificate of Completion
- The Certificate of Completion must be accompanied by an irrigation audit that contains the following:
  - Operating pressure of the irrigation system
  - Distribution uniformity of overhead irrigation
  - Precipitation rate of overhead irrigation
  - Report of any overspray or broken irrigation equipment
  - Irrigation schedule including:
    - 1. Plant establishment irrigation schedule
    - 2. Regular irrigation schedule by month (see Ordinance for details)
    - 3. Verification that a diagram of the irrigation plan showing hydrozones is kept with the irrigation controller for subsequent management purposes.
  - All landscape irrigation audits must be conducted by a City Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor or a third party Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor.
  - An irrigation maintenance schedule timeline must be attached to the Certificate of Completion (see Ordinance for details)
- Irrigation audit: an in-depth evaluation of the performance of an irrigation system conducted by a Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor (see Ordinance for details). The audit must be conducted in a manner consistent with the Irrigation Association's Landscape Irrigation Auditor Certification program or other U.S. EPA "WaterSense" labeled auditing program.

For more detailed information please go to [www.srcity.org/welo](http://www.srcity.org/welo) or contact Water Engineering Services at (707) 543-4200.