



MWELO Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance MWELO measures being implemented?

Water conservation (State Assembly Bill-1881 required after Feb 1, 2016), aimed at conserving outdoor water use for residential, commercial, and public landscaping.

2. Why is County of Ventura Building and Safety enforcing MWELO?

County of Ventura Building and Safety enforces minimal standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location and maintenance of all buildings and structures within the jurisdiction. This is accomplished through enforcement of Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical codes, Ventura County and State-mandated regulations.

3. What are the MWELO Compliance Methods?

Much like Title-24 Energy requirements, MWELO has both a Performance Method and Prescriptive Method.

The larger the landscaping project (in square feet) the more detail is required, which will require a formal set of landscaping plans provide both planning and irrigation plans (water budget).

4. Which type of compliance method can be used?

Aggregate Landscape Areas 2,500 square feet or Less: Performance or Prescriptive Methods allowed.

Aggregate Landscape Areas greater than 2,500 square feet: Performance Method ONLY.

5. What are the different triggers for the MWELO compliance forms?

Compliance Trigger #1

Scope of Project: New Landscape areas less than 500 square feet for Residential and Non-Residential projects.

Compliance Method: Exempt

Required Documents: None

Compliance Trigger #2

Scope of Project: Rehabilitated landscape areas Less than 2,500 square feet for Residential and Non-Residential requiring a building permit, plan check, or design review.

Compliance Method: Exempt

Required Documents: None

Compliance Trigger #3

Scope of Project: New Landscape areas for Residential and Non-Residential projects between 500 square feet and 2,500 square feet requiring a building permit, plan check, or design review.

Compliance Method: Performance or Prescriptive

Required Documents:

1. MWELo Project Information Sheet or Short Form (Prescriptive)
2. MWELo Submittal Checklist (Performance or Prescriptive)
3. MWELo Certificate of Completion

Compliance Trigger #4

Scope of Project: New or rehabilitated landscape areas for Residential and Non-Residential projects greater than or equal to 2,500 square feet requiring a building permit, plan check, or design review.

Compliance Method: Performance

Required Documents:

1. MWELo Project Information Sheet
2. MWELo Submittal Checklist (Performance Approach)
3. MWELo Certificate of Completion

Compliance Trigger #5

Scope of Project: Any Residential or Non-Residential projects less than 2,500 square feet using treated or untreated graywater or rainwater captured on site that meets the lots or parcel landscape water requirement entirely with treated or untreated graywater or through stored rainwater captured on site.

Compliance Method: Prescriptive (Appendix-D Only)

Required Documents:

1. MWELo Project Information Sheet
2. MWELo Appendix-D Submittal Checklist
3. MWELo Certificate of Completion

Compliance Trigger #6

Scope of Project: Landscape areas located at registered local, state, or federal historical sites, ecological restoration projects that do not require permanent irrigation, existing plan collections as part of the botanical garden, and arboretums open to the public.

Compliance Method: Exempt

Required Documents: None