

## Using This Guide

This is a general reference guide to help irrigation professionals comply with Appendix D – Prescriptive Compliance Option of the 2015 California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO). Section 490.1(c) of the ordinance states:

*Any project with an aggregate landscape area of 2,500 square feet or less may comply with the performance requirements of this ordinance or conform to the prescriptive measures contained in Appendix D. Any project with an aggregate landscape area of 2,500 square feet or less*

This guide addresses only Appendix D of MWELO. For more compliance guides to MWELO, visit [www.rainbird.com/agency/california/MWELO.htm](http://www.rainbird.com/agency/california/MWELO.htm).

This guide is based on information published by the State of California and the California Department of Water Resources. It references only the landscape and irrigation-related provisions of the ordinance and does not represent the entire ordinance. Any information in this guide is for general reference only and is subject to change without notice. For the entire current version and status of the ordinance, please visit [www.water.ca.gov](http://www.water.ca.gov).

## Appendix D - Prescriptive Compliance Option

- (a)** This appendix contains prescriptive requirements which may be used as a compliance option to the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.
- (b)** Compliance with the following items is mandatory and must be documented on a landscape plan in order to use the prescriptive compliance option:
  - (1)** Submit a Landscape Documentation Package which includes the following elements:
    - (A)** date
    - (B)** project applicant
    - (C)** project address (if available, parcel and/or lot number(s))
    - (D)** total landscape area (square feet), including a breakdown of turf and plant material
    - (E)** project type (e.g., new, rehabilitated, public, private, cemetery, homeowner-installed)
    - (F)** water supply type (e.g., potable, recycled, well) and identify the local retail water purveyor if the applicant is not served by a private well

## COMPLIANCE TIP:

All projects with aggregate landscape areas ≤ 2,500 sq. ft. can either:

- Comply with the entire ordinance,
- or
- Conform to prescriptive measures as outlined here

- (G) contact information for the project applicant and property owner
- (H) applicant signature and date with statement, "I agree to comply with the requirements of the prescriptive compliance option to the MWEL0".
- (2) Incorporate compost at a rate of at least four cubic yards per 1,000 square feet to a depth of six inches into landscape area (unless contra-indicated by a soil test);
- (3) Plant material shall comply with all of the following:
  - (A) For residential areas, install climate adapted plants that require occasional, little or no summer water (average WUCOLS plant factor 0.3) for 75% of the plant area excluding edibles and areas using recycled water; For non-residential areas, install climate adapted plants that require occasional, little or no summer water (average WUCOLS plant factor 0.3) for 100% of the plant area excluding edibles and areas using recycled water;
  - (B) A minimum three inch (3") layer of mulch shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except in turf areas, creeping or rooting groundcovers, or direct seeding applications where mulch is contraindicated.
- (4) Turf shall comply with all of the following:
  - (A) Turf shall not exceed 25% of the landscape area in residential areas, and there shall be no turf in non-residential areas;
  - (B) Turf shall not be planted on sloped areas which exceed a slope of 1 foot vertical elevation change for every 4 feet of horizontal length;
  - (C) Turf is prohibited in parkways less than 10 feet wide, unless the parkway is adjacent to a parking strip and used to enter and exit vehicles. Any turf in parkways must be irrigated by sub-surface irrigation or by other technology that creates no overspray or runoff.
- (5) Irrigation systems shall comply with the following:
  - (A) Automatic irrigation controllers are required and must use evapotranspiration or soil moisture sensor data and utilize a rain sensor.
  - (B) Irrigation controllers shall be of a type which does not lose programming data in the event the primary power source is interrupted.

**PRODUCT TIP:**

**(5)(A) AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION**

**CONTROLLER** Rain Bird offers a full line of [residential](#) and [commercial smart controllers](#), [weather sensors](#) and [soil-moisture sensors](#).

**PRODUCT TIP:**

**(5)(B) AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS**

Rain Bird offers a full line of [smart controllers](#), all with non-volatile memory.



**ESP-LXME Controller**

- (C) Pressure regulators shall be installed on the irrigation system to ensure the dynamic pressure of the system is within the manufacturers recommended pressure range.
  - (D) Manual shut-off valves (such as a gate valve, ball valve, or butterfly valve) shall be installed as close as possible to the point of connection of the water supply.
  - (E) All irrigation emission devices must meet the requirements set in the ANSI standard, ASABE/ICC 802-2014, "Landscape Irrigation Sprinkler and Emitter Standard". All sprinkler heads installed in the landscape must document a distribution uniformity low quarter of 0.65 or higher using the protocol defined in ASABE/ICC 802-2014.
  - (F) Areas less than ten (10) feet in width in any direction shall be irrigated with subsurface irrigation or other means that produces no runoff or overspray.
- (6) For non-residential projects with landscape areas of 1,000 sq. ft. or more, a private submeter(s) to measure landscape water use shall be installed.
- (c) At the time of final inspection, the permit applicant must provide the owner of the property with a certificate of completion, certificate of installation, irrigation schedule and a schedule of landscape and irrigation maintenance.

**PRODUCT TIP:**

**(C) WATER PRESSURE**

Use [pressure-regulating sprays](#) and [pressure-regulating rotors](#) and [drip filters](#) to decrease pressure.



PRS-SAM Rotors and Sprays



Pressure-Regulating Filter (RBY)

**PRODUCT TIP:**

**(E) IRRIGATION EMISSION DEVICES**

Rain Bird® [HE-VAN](#), [U-Series](#), [R-VAN](#) and [R-Series](#) Nozzles all meet the requirements of [ASABE/ICC 802-2014](#) and achieve DU<sup>10</sup> of 70% or greater.



HE-VAN

U-Series



R-VAN



R-Series

**PRODUCT TIP:**

**(F) AREAS LESS THAN 10'** Use Rain Bird [XFS Subsurface Dripline](#) irrigation for areas less than 10'.



XFS Subsurface Dripline

**PRODUCT TIP:**

**(6) LANDSCAPE WATER METERS** Rain Bird offers a complete family of [central control](#), [commercial-grade controllers](#) and [flow sensors](#) that, when designed together, qualify as a water meter or submeter. And, [Rain Bird's FMD Series Landscape Water Meters](#) are the only irrigation submeters available through traditional irrigation distribution channels.



FMD Series Landscape Water Meters