



Consideration of Additional Landscape Restrictions on New Connections and Other Policies for Increasing Water Efficiency

August 3, 2021



Overview

- Review of Adopted Landscape Restrictions for New Connections
 - Review of Board Comments from July 20
 - Challenges and options for implementing additional restrictions
- Additional Landscaping and Other Policy Considerations
- Next Steps

Landscape Restrictions

Current Code: Ordinance 453 Adopted 7/20/21

New water service connections are prohibited from using potable water for the installation of any new landscaping until after the termination of the current Water Shortage Emergency. (Landscaping shall include fountains and ponds)

- “new water service connection: new, additional, expanded or increased-in-size potable water service connections, meters, and service lines approved as of July 21, 2021.”

During the Water Shortage Emergency, applications for new water service connections will be approved only if the Applicant acknowledges in writing that:

- the proposed project does not include any new landscaping that will be irrigated using potable water, or
- no new landscaping that will be irrigated with potable water will be installed in connection with the proposed project until after the termination of the Water Shortage Emergency.

Board Discussion on 7/20/21

Request to discuss a permanent restriction on use of potable water for landscaping on new service connections

Interest to gain a better understanding of the impacts

Challenges to prohibiting use of *potable* water in landscapes for new service connections

- Not all sites are appropriate for alternative sources of water supply (graywater, rainwater, stormwater, nuisance water)
 - Slope, proximity to water ways, setbacks, etc
- Alternative water sources must be incorporated early in site design
- Some plant material can not use all types of alternative water sources (root crops)
- Requires CEQA analysis
- Potential conflicting County/City codes

Potential Long-term Regulations for New Connections

Options for reducing landscape water demand for new connections

- Require Alternative Source of Water Supply
 - Require applicants to have on-site, non-potable water supply to meet 100% of landscape water use for the new service connection
- Restrict Types of Plant Material
 - Limit ornamental/non-functional turf areas
 - Functional turf areas would be defined to include schools, parks, ballfields and other areas that are large enough to allow for active use
 - Require landscape area to be 'low' or 'very low' water use plant material
 - Water features, spas, pools, and lawns are 'high' water use

Blended Options to Accommodate for Site Constraints

Require applicants to have on-site, non-potable water supply to meet 100% of landscape water use for the new service connection

- Type of plant material not restricted

If site can't provide adequate amount of alternative water supply, code can restrict type of plant material:

- Limiting ornamental/ non-functional turf
- Restrict plant material to 'low' and 'very low' as defined by industry standards
- Clearly define Recreational/Functional Turf

Enforcement challenges need more detailed evaluation

Other Policy Considerations

Additional Policy Considerations

- Non-functional turf
 - Phased in approach to prohibiting irrigation to non-functional turf
- Rehabilitated Landscapes
 - Align rehabilitated landscape requirements with the proposed new service connection restrictions for residential and commercial landscapes
- Indoor Fixtures & Outdoor Use
 - Update and expand water efficiency standards
 - Installation of a hot water recirculating system
 - Time-of-Service Ordinance
 - Time-of-Sell Ordinance
 - Fairfax Model: Indoor Fixture Replacement for Remodel and Resale

Potential Policy Considerations

- New Connection Policy Proposals
 - Develop offset program
- Consider future refinements to District rate design
 - Summer Allocation Rates
 - Tier 4 Exemption
 - Residential Irrigation Only Accounts
 - Establish water budgets for all customers

Next Steps

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Feedback on Landscape Restrictions for New Connection

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Other Policy Priorities

- Prohibition on Non-Functional Turf
- Indoor Fixture Replacement: Fairfax Model
- Update Water Efficiency Standards