



## TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH BUILDING & PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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### The Town of Hillsborough Water Efficiency in Landscaping Ordinance

#### Overview

On June 14, 2010, the Town adopted its Water Efficiency in Landscaping Ordinance to comply with State Law AB 1881, "The Water Conservation in Landscaping Act". The Town's Ordinance became effective on August 14, 2010 and requires water efficient landscapes and irrigation systems to be installed for projects meeting specific criteria, which include construction, landscape, grading or other projects with new or rehabilitated, irrigated landscape areas and water features ("Landscape Areas") that total 2,500 square feet or more. Projects subject to the Ordinance requirements are categorized into two tiers, based on landscape area, and include specific submittal requirements based on each tier, an overview which is provided below.

Projects that do not require design review or permits and whose "Landscape Area" is less than 2,500 square feet, are encouraged, but not required to meet the standards of the Water Efficiency in Landscaping Ordinance.

#### Project Planning & Submittal Requirements

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Town's Ordinance, forms and guidelines as well as contact Building & Planning Staff early in the design process. A project checklist (Outdoor Water Use Efficiency checklist) has been created to help guide you through the requirements and design planning process and is required to be submitted with the project plans.

Projects subject to the Ordinance standards will need to submit the following documents as a part of the Planning (design review) and Building permit processes:

- ☐ "Outdoor Water Use Efficiency" Checklist
- ☐ Water Budget Worksheet (if applicable)
- ☐ Landscape Plan Set\*
- ☐ Irrigation Plan Set (conceptual plan acceptable for Planning Dept. review)
- ☐ Post-installation Audit (required during Building Permit process only)

Submittals are required to be prepared & signed by applicants as follows:

Project Category	Landscape Area	Submittal Prepared by
Excluded	< 2,500 square feet (or no permits or design review required)	No submittal required
Tier 1	2,500 to 5,000 square feet	Project Applicant
Tier 2	> 5,000 square feet	Certified Professional

Working with certified water conservation professionals whenever feasible is encouraged. Lists of certified professionals can be found online at [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org) (The Irrigation Association), [www.clca.org](http://www.clca.org) (California Landscape Contractor Association), and [www.qweltraining.com](http://www.qweltraining.com) (Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper).

Please contact the Building & Planning Office at (650) 375-7411 with any questions or visit [www.hillsborough.net](http://www.hillsborough.net) for additional information.

*\*Please refer to the Tier 1 & Tier 2 submittal checklists for landscape projects to view minimum requirements for landscape design submittals*