



## City of Laguna Beach

Community Development  
Department

### INFORMATION GUIDE FOR:

# Water Efficient Landscape Requirements

The City has adopted a state-mandated ordinance and implementing guidelines requiring certain provisions for landscaping and landscape irrigation. The ordinance provisions are contained in Chapter 19.01 of the City's Municipal Code entitled Water Efficient Landscape, and the effective date of the ordinance is February 1, 2016.

#### **Applicability.**

The following types of landscape projects that are submitted for zoning plan check after January 31, 2016 must comply with all requirements of the ordinance:

1. New landscape projects with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 500 square feet.
2. Rehabilitated landscape projects with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet.

The "landscaped area" noted above is defined in Chapter 19.01 and means all the planting areas, turf areas, and decorative water features (not including pools or spas) in a landscape design plan subject to the maximum applied water allowance and estimated applied water use calculations. The landscaped area does not include footprints of buildings or structures, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, decks, patios, gravel or stone walks, other pervious or non-pervious hardscapes or other non-irrigated areas designated for non-development (e.g., open spaces and existing native vegetation).

#### **Implementation.**

Projects submitted for zoning plan check after January 31, 2016 must provide information necessary to determine the landscape area, as defined above. If either of the two thresholds above are exceeded, then a Landscape Documentation Package (LDP) will be required. If an LDP is required, it shall be included with the submittal of plans for building plan check. The LDP must contain a certification that the LDP is in conformance with the provisions of Chapter 19.01 and implementing guidelines. The certification must be made by the licensed landscape professional that prepared or supervised preparation of the LDP. At the conclusion of the project, the licensed landscape professional in charge of the landscape design must certify that the landscaping and irrigation system has been installed in compliance with the certified LDP. This must be done as part of the final approval process of the building permit for the project.

New or rehabilitated landscape projects with an aggregate landscape area of 2,500 square feet or less may comply with a prescriptive compliance option (Appendix A of the Water Efficient Landscape Guidelines). This option simplifies compliance by having the licensed landscape professional certify that a streamlined version of the LDP and the installation complies with the Ordinance.

A licensed landscape professional is a licensed landscape architect, licensed landscape contractor or other licensed design professional authorized by State law to prepare an LDP plan. The City may require evidence from a LDP preparer that he/she has the proper license to prepare a LDP.

Copies of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and the Guidelines for Implementation of the Ordinance are available at the Community Development Department public counter at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA, 92651 and are available online at [www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/cd/zoning/docs.htm](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/cd/zoning/docs.htm).