



## 2015 Department of Water Resources Water Efficiency Landscape Requirements WELO

Town of Atherton  
Building Department  
91 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, California 94027  
Phone: (650) 752-0560

### **How do I know if the 2015 WELO Standards apply to my project?**

The Standards apply when a project has a permit issued such as a structure or grading/drainage and landscaping is to be installed. When a permit application triggers the WELO Landscaping requirements and is submitted on or after December 1, 2015 the 2015 WELO requirements apply. A project with a permit application date prior to December 1, 2015 will fall under the 2010 WELO Standards.

Example: A new residence is applied for on December 1, 2015 but issued at a later date. This project will fall under the 2015 Standards. Conversely if the residence was applied for on November 30, 2015 then the 2010 WELO Standards will apply.

### **Who can prepare the plan?**

The landscape and irrigation design portion must be prepared by, and bear the signature of, a licensed landscape architect, licensed landscape contractor, or other certified, qualified, or authorized professional.

### **When is a WELO design and Water Efficient Landscaping permit required?**

1) New construction projects with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 500 square feet associated with a building or grading and drainage permit;

or

2) Rehabilitated Landscape projects with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet associated with a building or grading and drainage permit.

### **Is there a simplified method to comply other than the performance method?**

Yes. Projects with an aggregate landscape area of 2,500 square feet or less may comply with the prescriptive measures contained in Appendix D which is available on the Town of Atherton website.

Projects over 2,500 square feet can only use the performance approach to compliance.

### **When do I have to submit for the WELO permit?**

During the course of your permitted project. The WELO permit can be deferred by completing a Request for Deferred Landscape Water Efficiency form, available at the counter or at:

<http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=153>

You will need to obtain the WELO permit prior to installing the landscaping or irrigation system.

### **What needs to be submitted for the permit?**

- 1) A Building Permit Application available at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=153> or at the counter with the required fee.
- 2) Three sets of plans and water calculations. The Landscape and Irrigation plans must show all the elements required by the Department of Water Resources. The information is available on the Town of Atherton website at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=154> or at <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/>

- 3) The cover sheet of the plans shall contain the following statements:
- a. *“I have complied with the criteria of the 2015 Model Water Efficient Landscape Requirements as required by the Department of Water Resources and applied them for the efficient use of water in the Landscape and Irrigation Design Plan.”*

*(Please use 2010 instead of 2015 if the older standards apply)*

- b. *“An Audit of the Project is required to be performed by a qualified professional and submitted along with the “Certificate of Completion” as contained in Appendix C of the Department of Water Resources regulations. The audit will be submitted to the Building Department for a final inspection.”*

**What is required to final the permit?**

- 1) A Landscape Irrigation Audit shall be conducted after the landscaping & irrigation systems have been installed by a certified landscape irrigation auditor, not the designer or installer, and submitted to the building department along with the Certificate of Completion (Appendix C) of the DWR regulations.
- 2) Upon receipt the permit will be finalized.