

EBMUD LAC Project Committee Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, December 5, 2023

TIME: 2:00pm – 3:15pm

LOCATION: Zoom and EBMUD Adm 4th Floor, 375 11th Street, Oakland

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Kristin Bowman, Jolene Bertetto, Nicolle Miller, Eric Santos, Jerri McNair, Jessica Woodward, Sundong Kwong, Scott Sommerfeld, Alicia Rose Seidlitz, Geneva Gondak, Stew Winchester, Karly Behncke, Anne Marie Benz, Dave Phelps, Lindsay Kinsler

2:00 pm

Welcome

2:05 pm

Legislative Updates

- Changes to [artificial turf legislation](#). Cities and other municipalities able to ban use from their areas due to environmental and health concerns of this product. [AB 3074](#) – Requiring 100 feet defensible space in high risk areas
- [AB 1572](#) - Prohibition of watering non-functional turf with drinking water effective per State Water Board. 2027 statewide law, phased approach starting with municipalities.
- Discuss questions for DWR and MWD on NFT for 1/22/2024 at 2pm - LAC General Meeting; Investigating regional approach.
 - Concern about non irrigated lawn areas increasing heat island effect, reducing CO2 carbon sequestration; dead soils
 - How does the enforcement work? Is it like MWELO?
 - What constitutes financial hardship – i.e. HOA's
 - Definition of non-functional
 - How does this relate to decorative grass at schools?
 - How do we account for the sensory level functions lawn provides humans – green has a calming effect.
 - Are there overlapping legislation. For instance, with Valley Water's adoption of drought level restrictions permanently.
 - What financial support will be offered?

2:30 pm

Project Updates

- Payback calculator – Stopwaste interested creating web-based widget
- Landscape Rebates – new irrigation flow sensor/meter and rebate amount changes.
 - \$1.00 Standard rebate
 - \$2.00 Super rebate
 - New irrigation [flowmeter/sensor rebate](#)
- Demonstration Gardens (Heather Farms – sign installation; Lafayette – plant list/controller with low Wi-Fi/cellular)
 - Eric/Lindsay suggested cellular survey to determine appropriate controller
- Connecting with small independent companies on best practices – design, maintenance, and irrigation; maintenance resources – when and how to prune
 - Concern about landscapers left behind on best practices and taking care of low water and other CA native plants.
 - Maintenance resources
 - CNPS Landscaper Training in English and Spanish will be offered in 2024
 - CNPS recommended landscape maintenance videos:

- [Overview of maintenance video](#)
- [Landscape maintenance video 2](#)
- [Pruning video](#)
- [CNPS pruning webpage](#)
- [Master Gardeners Handout on Pruning Natives](#)

- Calscape 2.0
 - Available in Feb 2024. Contact Jessica if you would like to be tester. For launch updates view at cnps.org/calscape.
 - Onboarding landscape professional contact list on Calscape starting mid- Jan.
 - [Bay Area Garden Plant Kits now available](#) – click through the Bay Area Garden Planner to see kit offer
- Study on residential graywater
 - Presented at WCS in April – San Ramon
- Event at Richmond Low Water Demo Garden with Master Gardeners and City of Richmond
 - Good event to showcase garden and successful partnership
- Fall Webinar Series summary
 - Lots of interest in gardening with native plants to support multiple benefits of lawn conversion.

2:45 pm

Lafayette Demo Garden - plant list review

- Select plants adapted to warmer inland climates. Stew to review.

2:55 pm

How to find leaks on a drip system (SK/ALL)

- Use a flow meter to identify zone leak is on. Turn on zone during a quiet period (early morning or later evening. Look for wet area and listen for hissing. Good video on [drip repair](#).

3:05 pm

New Business

3:15 pm

Adjourn

Upcoming Events

- Monday, January 22nd 2:00-3:30pm General Meeting on Non-Functional Turf state law
- April 4, 2024 Water Conservation Showcase, San Ramon
- Spring Sheet Mulching with City of San Ramon (TBD)
- Day in your neighborhood demonstration garden (Spring 2024)

AB 1572

CHAPTER 2.5. Nonfunctional Turf

10608.14.

(a) The use of potable water for the irrigation of nonfunctional turf located on commercial, industrial, and institutional properties, other than a cemetery, and on properties of homeowners’ associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations or similar entities is prohibited as of the following dates:

- (1) All properties owned by the Department of General Services, beginning January 1, 2027.
- (2) All properties owned by local governments, local or regional public agencies, and public water systems, except those specified in paragraph (5), beginning January 1, 2027.

- (3) All other institutional properties and all commercial and industrial properties, beginning January 1, 2028.
- (4) All common areas of properties of homeowners' associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations or similar entities, beginning January 1, 2029.
- (5) All properties owned by local governments, local public agencies, and public water systems in a disadvantaged community, beginning January 1, 2031, or the date upon which a state funding source is made available to fund conversion of nonfunctional turf on these properties to climate-appropriate landscapes, whichever is later.
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the use of potable water is not prohibited by this section to the extent necessary to ensure the health of trees and other perennial nonturf plantings, or to the extent necessary to address an immediate health and safety need.
- (c) The board may, upon a showing of good cause for reasons including economic hardship, critical business need, and potential impacts to human health or safety, postpone a compliance deadline in subdivision (a) by up to three years for certain persons, institutions, and businesses, and may create a form to be used for compliance certification to the board by property owners.
- (d) Public water systems shall, by no later than January 1, 2027, revise their regulations, ordinances, or policies governing water service to include the requirements of subdivisions (a) and (b), as revised by the board pursuant to subdivision (c), and shall communicate the requirements to their customers on or before that date.
- (e) (1) An owner of commercial, industrial, or institutional property with more than 5,000 square feet of irrigated area other than a cemetery shall certify to the board, commencing June 30, 2030, and every three years thereafter through 2039, that their property is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.
- (2) An owner of a property with more than 5,000 square feet of irrigated common area that is a homeowners' association, common interest development, or community service organization or similar entity shall certify to the board, commencing June 30, 2031, and every three years thereafter through 2040, that their property is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.