City of Grass Valley
City Council
Agenda Action Sheet

Council Meeting Date: May 10, 2016

Prepared by: Thomas Last, Community Development Director

Date Prepared: May 4, 2016

Title: Update on an action plan to implement the State’s Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Council accept the proposed implementation plan for this required ordinance.

Agenda: Administrative

Background Information: On November 10, 2015, staff provided the City Council with an overview of the Department of Water Resources updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO). The California Water Commission adopted this state-mandated ordinance on July 15, 2015. As previously noted, the state law includes significant changes related to approving and monitoring new and existing landscape projects. The ordinance will require additional City staff time and costs related to the state-mandated monitoring, reviewing, and reporting requirements. Finally, if the City did not adopt a separate ordinance that was at least as efficient as the state’s, the MWELO would apply by default on December 1, 2015. Based on these concerns at the November meeting, the City Council concurred with staff’s recommendation to: 1) accept and implement the State’s model ordinance; 2) meet with stakeholders in the landscape business; and 3) return to Council with an update on implementation.

Staff conducted two workshops, on December 17, 2015, and on March 22, 2015. These meetings were well attended with representatives from the Nevada County Contractor’s Association, landscape architects, landscape contractors, and citizens interested in the new requirements. Staff worked with these representatives to develop an acceptable and effective permit process. Some of the key outcomes and proposed implementation include:

1. A one-page application for Landscape Permits;
2. A proposal to allow an applicant to select any approved certified and licensed landscape irrigation auditor, rather than the City hiring an auditor (the City will rely on the State’s approved certification list and the applicant will need to select an independent auditor that was not involved in the design or installation of the irrigation system);
3. Establish a reasonable fee to pay for the processing of these new permits (staff will include in the 2016/17 budget, approximately $200 to cover staff review and monitoring time);
4. Accept the State’s model ordinance as the City’s ordinance (no further City action required to accept this approach).

Staff recommends the Council accept the four implementation steps listed above.

Reviewed by: City Manager

Attachment: Proposed Landscape Permit

Agenda Item # 17-1
CITY OF GRASS VALLEY
Landscape Document Package
Checklist and Permit

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT LOCATION
PROPERTY LOCATION (STREET ADDRESS):
PARCEL NUMBER: __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

PROJECT APPLICANT
NAME: __________________________________ PHONE #: __________________________
MAILING ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP: ______________________________________________________________

PROJECT INFORMATION
TOTAL LANDSCAPE AREA (square feet): ____________________________________________

PROJECT TYPE (Check All That Apply): □ Commercial □ Residential
□ New □ Rehabilitation □ Public □ Private □ Cemetery
□ Home-Owner Installed □ Other (List: __________________________________________

WATER SUPPLY: □ Potable (City/NID) □ Recycled □ Well

LICENSED PREPARATOR OF LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION PLANS
NAME: __________________________________ PHONE #: __________________________
MAILING ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP: ______________________________________________________________

LANDSCAPE DOCUMENT PACKAGE ATTACHMENTS

CHECK BOXES AND PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING WITH PERMIT
□ Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet
□ Soil Management Report □ Deferred Submittal due to significant grading May affect soil amendment mix
□ Landscape Design Plans (2 Sets)
□ Irrigation Design Plans (2 Sets)
□ Grading Design Plan. □ Submitted as part of a grading permit, or □ N/A

APPLICANT SIGNATURE AND SIGNED STATEMENT

BY MY SIGNATURE I agree to comply with the requirements of the water efficient landscape ordinance and submit a complete Landscape Documentation Package.

Applicant’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________________________
Print Name: ____________________________

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:

Permit Number: __________________________
Permit Approved (If Denied provide corrections to Applicant): Date: __________________________

Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet Provided to City Public Works or Nevada Irrigation District: Date: __________________________

Certificate of Completion Form and Installation Provided to City: Date: __________________________

Irrigation Audit Provided to City: Date: __________________________
Name of Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor: __________________________
License/Certification Number: __________________________

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