



September 10th, 2012

Cary D. Lowe, PH.D, AICP
Water policy implementation task force chair
202 C Street
San Diego, CA. 92101

Dear Mr. Lowe,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers California Chapter (APLD CA) and as President of the local district of APLD in San Diego. APLD CA takes water conservation very seriously and works hard to educate our members and the public on the many ways to conserve and manage water in the landscape.

We support making the City of San Diego's current Level 1 Drought Alert the permanent, mandatory water conservation standard for all residents, institutions, and business in San Diego. We believe that standard should become the baseline for all future drought response levels.

APLD fully supports the water conservation code for new landscape construction to include an Evapotranspiration Adjustment Factor of .6, or even .5. This lower Adjustment Factor would align with the Sustainable Sites Initiative, and also with Ocean Friendly Gardens, two programs that APLD members in San Diego support.

APLD recommends the plant factor numbers used to calculate the anticipated water use of new landscapes to be set at the middle of the range for each plant group.

APLD also proposes a fourth plant factor category; a 5%-10% plant factor that would include low water California natives, other low water Mediterranean natives plants, as well as succulents that require minimal supplemental waterings during the growing season.

Should the City of San Diego decide to implement water conservation landscape standards for new single family homes, all professional designers should be eligible to submit Landscape Packages and similar documentation, so as to bring the City into conformity with other regions of the state.

If you or your talk force has any questions or would like to discuss our position, please contact me directly at (858) 243-4470 or ameliablina@gmail.com. The Association of Professional Landscape Designers is honored to be involved in this process.

Respectfully,

Amelia B. Lima
APLD San Diego District president