



# CITY OF DANA POINT

PUBLIC WORKS – ENGINEERING SERVICES

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## WATER QUALITY REQUIREMENTS FOR LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

To comply with required State storm water regulations (Order No. R9-2013-0001) which prohibit water runoff from your property due to irrigation activities, the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required for all irrigation systems. Please be aware, however, that implementation of these strategies by themselves does not necessarily guarantee compliance. Additional actions may be needed to fully control surface water runoff. The BMPs, along with the “Implementation Strategies” and “Other Tips & Techniques” are designed to prevent water runoff from your property from entering the public storm drain system. Please remember that these requirements are in place to protect and improve our beaches, creeks, and the ocean. Please contact Lisa Zawaski at 949-248-3584 for more info.

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### **Required Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Landscape Irrigation**

1. Implement all feasible measures to eliminate surface runoff of landscape irrigation water.
2. Comply with water conservation, drought response and waste prohibition regulations of your Water District.

### **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

1. **Implement all feasible measures to eliminate surface runoff of landscape irrigation water.**
  - A. Ensure that persons responsible for landscape maintenance are aware of irrigation management techniques for pollution and runoff prevention.
  - B. Replace irrigation controller batteries in the spring and fall, or as needed.
  - C. Inspect the irrigation system monthly, while it is operating, to identify leaks and to determine if runoff is occurring.
  - D. Promptly repair any leaks or breaks. Faulty systems must be turned off until adequate repair is made. If bailing of muddy water is required (e.g. when repairing a water line leak), do not put it in the gutters as it enters the storm drain. Pour over landscaped areas instead.
  - E. Adjust sprinkler heads and nozzles to avoid over-spray into gutters or onto pavement (driveways, sidewalks or streets) and/or other impervious areas.
  - F. Reduce irrigation run-time, as necessary, to prevent runoff. This may require running more cycles for shorter times and allowing adequate time in between cycles to give the soil time to absorb the water. Cycles may be less than 3 minutes depending on landscaping sprinkler precipitation rates, soil type and topography/slope.
  - G. Adjust the watering schedule seasonally to reflect reduced winter water demand. Visit [www.bewaterwise.com/calculator.html](http://www.bewaterwise.com/calculator.html) to find customized watering schedules for your landscape.
  - H. Do not water when rain is predicted, or when the ground is adequately moist from rainfall.

## **2. Comply with water conservation, drought response and waste prohibition regulations of your Water District.**

- A. Adhere to the watering schedule restrictions designated by your Water District, as appropriate to drought conditions. For more information on Water District requirements contact the Water District for your area:
- South Coast Water District at 949-499-4555 or see [www.scwd.org](http://www.scwd.org).
  - Moulton Niguel Water District at 949-831-2500 or see [www.mnwd.com](http://www.mnwd.com).
  - San Juan Capistrano Utilities Department at 949-487-4304 or see [www.sanjuancapistrano.org](http://www.sanjuancapistrano.org).

## **OTHER BENEFICIAL TIPS & TECHNIQUES**

### **1. Consider upgrading your irrigation system and components to increase irrigation efficiency and reduce runoff.**

- A. Replace old timer-based irrigation controllers with weather-based self-adjusting controllers. Rebates may be available. For more information go to: <http://www.bewaterwise.com/>.
- B. Install sprinkler heads with a low precipitation flow rate and/or a more adjustable spray pattern or radius as needed. Rebates may be available. For more information go to: <http://www.bewaterwise.com/>.
- C. Install popup sprinkler heads in areas with a lot of activity and/or where risers may be easily broken.
- D. Install water-efficient drip irrigation systems for trees, shrubs and flowers.
- E. Install a flow sensor that will shut-off water in case of breakages in the system.
- F. Install an automatic rain shut-off sensor.
- G. Install check valves for sprinkler heads at the bottom of slopes to eliminate low-head drainage.
- H. Relocate spray heads to provide a six (6) inch buffer zone between pavement and landscape areas.

### **2. Consider reducing the need for irrigation.**

- A. Add a thick layer of mulch (at least 2-3 inches), two to three times per year, around trees and plants to minimize runoff, reduce evaporation, and minimize weed growth.
- B. Add compost as a soil amendment to increase water retention.
- C. Replace turf areas with drought tolerant shrubs and groundcover, synthetic turf, gravel, or other permeable surfaces, etc.
- D. Aerate soil in spring and fall to help retain rainfall.