



December 1, 2009

(Agency Address)

(Salutation)

APLD, The Association of Professional Landscape Designers-California Chapter is a professional organization including 450 members throughout the State of California. We are committed to sustainability and water conservation, and applaud the efforts of the state to establish standards for water conservation in designed landscapes. Landscape Designers in California are permitted to work in the realm of Single Family Residences, per the Business and Professions Code of California.

APLD supports the adoption of AB 1881 by local agencies, but it has come to our attention that some local drafts of the Model Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELo) threaten to impinge upon our right to practice in the State of California. In particular, we encourage you to adopt unchanged language in Section 492.6(13) in any local ordinance:

“bear the signature of a licensed landscape architect, licensed landscape contractor, or any other person authorized to design a landscape. (See Sections 5500.1, 5615, 5641, 5641.1, 5641.2, 5641.3, 5641.4, 5641.5, 5641.6, 6701, 7027.5 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 832.27 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, and Section 6721 of the Food and Agriculture Code.)”

This language, pertaining to the submittal of the Landscape Design portion of the documentation package, is consistent with the Business and Professions Code, insofar as it allows Landscape Designers to submit documentation packages for Single Family Residences.

Exclusion of Landscape Designers from submitting the Landscape Design Documentation Package would create a de facto environment which unfairly restricts our right to practice, and would therefore constitute a restraint of trade, denying Single Family Homeowners in California access to our services. We therefore encourage you to adopt, without changes, the language contained within Section 492.6(13) in your Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

Landscape Designers are in a unique position to support your agency’s efforts to educate consumers and promote a standard for beautiful water-efficient residential landscapes in your community. We encourage you to visit our website at www.apldca.org to learn more about Landscape Designers in California, and about APLD and its members.

Sincerely,

Maureen Decombe
President
Association of Professional Landscape Designers
California Chapter