PROCEDURE: COMPLIANCE WITH CALGREEN CODE OUTDOOR WATER USE REGULATIONS

Forms referenced within this publication are available on the DSA Forms webpage.

PURPOSE: This procedure outlines the process or series of steps to be taken by Division of the State Architect (DSA) staff and external stakeholders to fulfill the administrative requirements for demonstrating compliance with the CALGreen Outdoor Water Use regulations for landscape irrigation work.

BACKGROUND: In response to California’s continuing drought, Governor Brown issued State of Emergency proclamations in January and April of 2014. In support of the Governor’s initiatives, DSA proposed regulations in the 2013 California Green Building Standards Code (also known as CALGreen Code) to reduce outdoor water use for landscape irrigation by public schools and community colleges.

DSA regulations were approved on an emergency basis by the California Building Standards Commission on July 21, 2015 with an effective date of July 23, 2015 and were based upon the 2009 Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) regulations adopted by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). To align with DWR’s recently updated 2015 MWELO which became effective December 1, 2015, the emergency regulations were revised during certifying rulemaking and became effective January 26, 2016.

DEFINITIONS: For purposes of this procedure, the words and phrases below shall have the following meanings:

Building Footprint means total area of the furthest exterior wall of the structure projected to natural grade, not including exterior areas such as stairs, covered walkways, patios and decks.

Evapotranspiration Factor (ETAF) is an adjustment factor, when applied to reference evapotranspiration, that adjusts for plant factors and irrigation efficiency which are two major influences upon the amount of water that needs to be applied to the landscape.

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) is the California regulation commencing with California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 2.7, Section 490. The MWELO establishes a structure for planning, designing, installing, maintaining and managing water-efficient landscapes in new construction and rehabilitated projects.

Special Landscape Area (SLA) means an area of the landscape dedicated solely to edible plants, recreational areas, planting areas used for educational purposes, areas irrigated with recycled water, water features using recycled water, and where turf provides a playing surface or gathering space.

Site Landscape Area Location Plan means a campus-level key site plan showing the location, extent and area of the landscape irrigation to be installed. The plan shall indicate the site address, facility name, school district, buildings and landscape within scope of work. The DSA will indicate the DSA Application Number. See Attachment 1 for sample plan.
PROCEDURE: This procedure lists the processes and requirements for meeting the plan review and construction oversight requirements of the CALGreen Code, Section 5.304.6, for Outdoor Water Use.

1. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1.1 Effective Date: Projects submitted on or after January 1, 2016 with landscape irrigation work or triggering landscape irrigation work to meet minimum rehabilitated landscape area requirements must provide self-certification documentation to comply with the CALGreen Outdoor Water Use Regulations.

1.2 Documentation: The architect, landscape architect or civil engineer in responsible charge of the landscape irrigation design and documentation shall certify on the form DSA 1-L: Title 24, Part 11 – Outdoor Water Use Self-Certification of Landscape Irrigation Design and Documentation that the landscape irrigation design and documentation was prepared in accordance with the regulations, and agree to perform periodic site observations during construction to ensure the landscape planting and irrigation work is completed in accordance with the requirements of the CALGreen Outdoor Water Use Regulations. The completed DSA 1-L and an 8 ½” x 11” electronic copy of the Site Landscape Area Location Plan shall be submitted to the applicable DSA regional office for plan approval, unless the Site Landscape Area Location Plan is indicated as not required on the DSA 1-L.

2. DSA AUDIT OF MWELO DOCUMENTATION: The architect, landscape architect or civil engineer in responsible charge of the landscape irrigation design, documentation and construction oversight may be required to provide copies of (1) the Landscape Documentation Package and/or (2) the Certificate of Completion with Parts 3 through 6 attachments to DSA in the event of an audit.

For additional information and a list of frequently asked questions, visit DSA’s Sustainability Plan Review webpage.

A Division of the State Architect (DSA) Procedure documents a process or series of steps that DSA staff and/or external stakeholders must complete in order to fulfill one or more administrative requirements of DSA’s plan and construction review programs.
ATTACHMENT 1

DSA Application No. (if applicable): ________*

Existing Site: 67501 Camino Campanero
Desert Hot Springs 92240

School District: Palms Springs Unified School District

Site Landscape Area Location Plan:
Submittal Format: 8-1/2" x 11" Hardcopy (1 copy)

*Note: If DSA application numbers are not known, DSA regional office staff will fill in the blanks.