

PATHWAY

Applicant begins the application process, contacts staff for assistance.



Applicant completes project sheet.

Applicant obtains a soil report.

Applicant (or a Landscape Professional) completes water use worksheet.

Landscape Professional completes the landscape design plan, irrigation design plan, and grading plan.



Applicant submits landscape package.



Staff reviews and approves. Okay to begin installation.



Project is installed as per plans



Applicant obtains an irrigation audit report from 3rd party auditor

Applicant completes Certificate with landscape professional

Applicant completes Irrigation & Maintenance Schedule



Applicant submits project completion documents to WELO team and schedules a final inspection.



County staff completes site inspection and approves installation.

FINDING A LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL

IRRIGATION DESIGNERS

Can prepare an irrigation design plan and/or water use worksheet

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Can prepare the landscape design plan, irrigation design plan, and/or water use worksheet

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS (C-27)

Can prepare the landscape design plan, irrigation design plan, and/or water use worksheet

IRRIGATION AUDITORS

Can prepare an irrigation audit report after project installation. Must be a 3rd party auditor not involved in the current project's design.

To verify a license or search for professionals in your area, you can:

- follow the links included in the landscape package documents
- Visit the Solano County Green Building Program webpage to access links directly to the licensing databases.



SOLANO COUNTY

WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE (WELO)

Full Compliance Guide:

Projects exceeding 2500 Square Feet



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OVERVIEW

Beginning in 2025, Solano County will conduct a water efficiency review on all projects meeting thresholds below:

- Located in the unincorporated areas of Solano County.
- New landscaping area is at least 500 square feet.
- Renovated landscaping is at least 2500 square feet.
- Some exemptions apply (historical sites, ecological or mined-land reclamation projects with no irrigation, and botanical gardens/arboretums open to the public).
- Overall project is subject to a design review, plan check review, or other review by Solano County. Typically, landscape projects would be flagged during a building application review.



Applicants will be required to submit either the full compliance package (projects over 2500 square feet) or the alternative compliance package (projects between 500 and 2500 square feet). Completed landscape packages can be submitted via email to WELO@solanocounty.com, via the online submittal portal, via mail, or in our office with an appointment.

To set up an appointment or assistance with a landscape review package, please contact WELO@solanocounty.com or 707-784-6765. Our team is standing by to help with your project!

PLAN APPROVAL

The initial application package must include these six elements:

- ✓ **Project Worksheet.** This page lists basic information about the landscape project and contact information.
- ✓ **Water Use Worksheet.** This page details the different hydrozones in the landscape project, irrigation methods for each, and the calculations for estimated total water use (ETWU) and for allowable water budget (MAWA).
- ✓ **Landscape Design Plan.** Comprehensive layout for the landscape project, complete with water features, hydrozone boundaries, mulching areas, soil amendments, and more. Must be completed by and bear the signature of a licensed landscape architect or licensed landscape contractor.
- ✓ **Irrigation Design Plan.** Focused on irrigation system design, this is a comprehensive layout of the irrigation system components, water meters, and water pressure details, as well as design details of each irrigation station. Must be completed by and bear the signature of a licensed landscape architect, certified irrigation designer, or licensed landscape contractor.
- ✓ **Grading Design Plan.** This plan indicates heights and elevations of the landscape projects in addition to drainage patterns, pad elevations, and any additional grading features. Plan can be completed by a civil engineer or other accepted licensed agent.
- ✓ **Soil Management Report.** This report must be obtained from a 3rd party soil testing lab. The report will include information on soil health details, current nutrient content, and recommended amendments.

Once project is completed, a second round of document submission is required prior to scheduling the final landscape inspection. These three elements must be completed:

- ✓ **Certificate of Completion.** The contractor (or architect) and the property owner must sign the completion certificate, certifying that the project was installed as per the approved plans.
- ✓ **Irrigation Audit Report.** A third party of the applicant's choosing must perform an irrigation audit report. This report must detail the systems inspected and any deviations from the approved plans. Auditor must be certified via WaterSense.
- ✓ **Irrigation & Maintenance Schedule.** The plan must detail the watering plan for each hydrozone or station, a plan for regular maintenance, and that the total applied water will not exceed the approved water budget.
- ✓ If needed, as-built plans and record drawings may be required as well as any post-project soil management reports not submitted at time of application.

FINAL LANDSCAPE INSPECTION

Once all post-project documents have been received and reviewed, the applicant may schedule a final landscape inspection. Inspection will be completed by Solano County staff will focus on verifying project is completed as per approved plans. Contact WELO@solanocounty.com or 707-784-6765 for questions about site inspections.