

COMMUNITY WATER WISE AWARDS

Landscape Conservation Judging Criteria

Updated: March 13, 2014

RETENTION OF EXISTING TREES AND VEGETATION

Criteria		
No invasive exotic plant species on site (i.e. Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pine, Melaleuca, Chinese Tallow, Air Potato and Carrotwood, or specific to geographic location)		
Drought-tolerant trees and/or plants are retained, protected or planted		
Self-mulching areas are located under trees		

LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND PLANT SELECTION

Criteria		
No grass or minimal and/or practical use of grass (for play, entertainment, pets, etc.)		
Plants selected are appropriate to site conditions (drainage, sun, shade, etc.)		
Plants with similar maintenance and water requirements are grouped together		
Organic mulch (e.g. shredded wood, leaves) is applied 2-3 inches deep throughout plant beds		
Use of alternative organic mulch (e.g. pine straw or bark, melaleuca, eucalyptus or recycled materials, instead of cypress)		
No narrow strips of grass (less than 4' wide)		

STORMWATER RUNOFF PREVENTION

Criteria		
Swales, retention ponds (on the property), berms, terracing and other landscape features retain runoff on the property		
Gutter downspouts and roof runoff directed onto mulched/planted areas		
Pervious materials are used for paths, walks, and driveways or play areas such as mulch, wood decking, brick, gravel and stone		
Rain collection devices such as rain barrels and cisterns are used		
- With 100% offset of potable water use for irrigation purposes		
- With 50% offset of potable water use for irrigation purposes		
- With 0% offset of potable water use for irrigation purposes		
No bare areas in the lawn or landscape which are subject to erosion		

EFFICIENT IRRIGATION

Criteria (choose only one)		
Landscape exists primarily on rainfall - No irrigation system - Existing irrigation system (go to checklist below)		
Landscape watered as needed once established - by hose-end sprinkler - by in-ground system (go to checklist below)		
Landscape watered routinely (go to checklist below)		

Low-Volume System Only			(CIRCLE ONE) Low-Volume and Traditional Irrigation Systems Combined OR Traditional Irrigation Only		
Manual controller - OR - Automatic controller - Multiple program time clock - Time clock set appropriately - Functioning rain shut-off device			Turf & plants irrigated by separate zones		
			Rotors/sprays/micro in separate zones		
			Matched precipitation rates (includes emitter selection & placement)		
			Multiple program time clock		
Landscape beds only irrigated with micro			Time clock set appropriately		
System/emitters not broken or misdirected			Functioning rain shut-off device		
Proper emitter selection and placement			Rotors/sprays/micro emitters not broken or misdirected		
			Plants or structures do not interfere with spray patterns		

Overall Aesthetic Appeal	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	