



*City of Rolling Hills*

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

NO. 2 PORTUGUESE BEND ROAD  
ROLLING HILLS, CA 90274  
(310) 377-1521  
FAX (310) 377-7288

## LANDSCAPE PLAN REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

(RHMC 13.18 Effective February 24, 2010)

### PROVISIONS AND STANDARDS

1. Landscape Plans for new or altered landscaping of **5,000 square feet or greater** are required to comply with specific standards, if landscaping is part of a development project that is subject to approval by the Planning Commission or City Council. Examples of such projects include: Site Plan Reviews, Variances and Conditional Use Permits.
2. At the direction of the property owner the plan may be prepared by the owner or a landscape professional, unless alteration requires grading or drainage plan (Ca. Business and Professions Code §5641)
3. The plan must include: names of plants (botanical and common), number and sizes of containers, percentage calculation of turf areas; low, medium or high water use plants and water-wise plants; water budget calculations; monthly irrigation schedule; and any areas of existing landscaping to remain unaltered.
4. The City reserves the right to require modified plans of the landscape to meet the requirements of Ordinance 316.
5. Landscaping of applicable projects must be designed such that water use will not exceed:
  - 70% of the City's designated *evapotranspiration rate* (ETo) = 39.7 in. / year.
  - A water budget (MAWA) calculated for the project (see attached worksheet).
6. Turf and non water-wise plants:
  - Must comprise less than 40% of the total landscaped area (plantings in a roadway easement are not counted towards 40%).
  - Turf not permitted to be planted on slopes of 20% (5:1) or greater.
  - City may approve additional turf areas for outdoor sporting, recreational activities, or another approved function irrigated at 1.0 of the City's (ETo).
7. Mulching requirements:
  - Non-turf areas must have an average thickness of 3-inches minimum throughout.
  - Groundcovers planted from nursery flats must have an average thickness of 1.5-inches.
  - Mulch thickness and coverage must be maintained for the life of the planting.

8. Irrigation systems are required to have the following features:
  - Automatic irrigation controllers, weather based with rain shut-off sensors
  - Sprinklers with optimum distribution uniformity, spacing, matched precipitation rates per valve and circuit, and setbacks from hard surfaces.
  - Check valves for each line.

## **PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS**

1. Before discretionary permit application and public hearing:
  - Submit preliminary conceptual Landscape Plan to City with discretionary permit application. The conceptual plan shall clearly identify all proposed new and/or existing landscaping to be altered.
2. Before obtaining grading or building permits:
  - Submit detailed Landscape Plan to the City along with a “Statement of Compliance” signed by the preparer, certifying that the landscape design complies with Ordinance No. 316 (see attached form) and cost estimate for the landscaping and irrigation. (City Staff with City landscaping consultant will review plan and cost estimate.)
  - Submit to the City a financial obligation in the amount based on the cost of the landscaping and irrigation plus 15% City administration cost.
3. Following project completion:
  - Within 90 days of the date the related development project has received an approved final inspection, the plan preparer must inspect installed landscaping and irrigation system included in the approved landscape plan and submit certification (see attached form) to City staff verifying that the installation substantially conforms to the plan. The City may extend the submission requirement for an additional 90 days.
  - After two years of installation of the landscaping/irrigation staff will inspect it, and if satisfied that it complies with the approved plan and landscaping is in good condition, the City will refund the security deposit.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. City of Rolling Hills Landscape Water Budget Calculation Worksheet
2. City of Rolling Hills Landscape Plan Statement of Compliance
3. City of Rolling Hills Landscape Installation Certificate of Completion

*Public:INACTIVE FILES:LANDSCAPING ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS AND FORMS:Ordinance No. 316 Forms:Ord 316 Guidelines Handout 1.doc*

04/2013