

EBMUD Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
10/16/17
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Meeting Location: EBMUD HQ

Present:

Helmut Winkelhake
Kristin Bowman
Chris McNairy
Eric Santos
Maura Baldwin

Absent:

Dona Wessells
Tom Stewart
Jerri McNair
Dan Palmer
Scott Sommerfeld
Jessica Woodard

Meeting Agenda:

2:00 pm	Welcome and Agenda Review
2:10 pm	Discuss Water Budget Calculator Updates
2:15 pm	Review Latest Iteration of Plant List
2:30 pm	Discuss the creation of a Hydro-Zoning technical document
3:00 pm	California Regulatory Discussion – MWELo, SB 780, EO B-37-16
3:15 pm	New Business
3:30 pm	Adjourn Next Meeting Monday November 13th , 2017 – 2 pm

Meeting Notes:

Item 1 – Water Budget Calculator and Plant List Updates

The group discussed adding evergreens to the calculator drop down. The current drop downs have been modified to contain the top 5 most commonly listed plants without fire prone plants.

Rescape recently held a seminar on firescaping which mostly focused on distance and clearance. The speaker was Jennifer DeGraf.

KB requested feedback on top 5 plant lists by Thursday before sending the list off to ISD to begin story boarding the page.

ES asked the question of where the calculator would reside.

CM raised the idea of expanding the water use calculator to plants other than lawn to not pigeon hole the calculator into just turf and renaming it to "Landscape Conversion Calculator"

Item 2 – Hydrozone discussion

ES asked if limitations around bottom end flow rates prevent homeowners from hydrozoning properly

CM commented that flow limitations aren't as big of a driver behind improper hydrozoning as much as cost is. Most people don't know the importance of basic principals and are just focused on how much they are spending on the install. Why spend the money on two valves when I can do it with one. Or why buy a 12 station controller when I can do it with a 4 station controller. Guidelines need to be basic so people aren't overwhelmed.

HW raised the point that plants should simply be grouped by how frequently plants should be watered. The goal is to push out the frequency of watering. High water use plants get watered every other day, while low water use shrubs only get watered every 9 to 10 days.

KB suggested providing one or two examples of proper hydrozoning, For example, you would never water turf, shrubs,trees all the same. It comes down to frequency, north, south,ect

MB presented a couple of draft documents she put together for discussion.

ES commented that the most basic definition of hydrozoning is grouping of plants by similar water needs.

Group mentioned that there are many more factors that need to be considered such as; how much water do existing plants need, how much water do new plants need, site specific conditions, whats practical vs theoretical.

The group agreed that the focus should be on frequency and not hydrozoning. 4 days vs 5 days

CM commented that adding a legend to the diagram would be helpful to show what frequency means

CM also shared the idea of having a hierarchy. What is the principal hydrozone and what is a sub hydrozone.

Item 3 – Regulatory discussion

ES offered to summarize the 12 dozen senate bills and assembly bills on the table for the next meeting.

ES provide a quick LSAG update on the Fresno meeting and the consensus to removed existing landscapes from the next revision of MWEL0.

MB requested that we set aside some time at each meeting to discuss regulatory happenings.