A HOMEOWNER’S GUIDE TO SELECTING A LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL FOR WATER CONSERVATION

current state regulations provide many options
to design and install water-saving measures for single-family residential properties, a homeowner can consult with the following professionals or design and install as a DIY project.
residential landscape designs must consider many factors to reduce water use.

- Sustainable water use reduction
  - Rainwater retention
  - Prevent erosion & detain stormwater
  - Promote healthy soils
  - Install efficient irrigation system
  - Specify native plants
  - Understand adverse affect of too much gravel
  - Meet state & local reduction requirements
  - Public education
  - Plant low water use species
  - Balance permeable materials & planting
  - Meet state & local reduction requirements

Common Goals
homeowner can select from the following for design and installation depending upon the specific needs of the project:

- **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**
  - Conceptual designs
  - Grading plans
  - Construction plans
  - Construction details
  - Irrigation plans
  - Planting plans
  - Carry professional insurance
  - State monitoring
  - 3,500+ licensed in CA
  - Extensive education: BA, BS, Masters, Cert.

- **LANDSCAPE DESIGNER**
  - Conceptual designs
  - Residential designs
  - Technical planting plans
  - (No education requirement)

- **LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR**
  - Conceptual designs
  - Grading design-build
  - Construction design-build
  - Irrigation design-build
  - Planting design-build
  - Carry insurance
  - State monitoring
  - Licensed in CA

- **LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE**
  - Conceptual designs
  - Grading repair
  - Irrigation repair
  - Planting installation maintenance

- **HOMEOWNER DIY**
  - Conceptual designs
  - Installation repair maintenance

licensed in design & construction document preparation
specializing in residential design, non-licensed
licensed design-build services
installation, non-licensed
do-it-yourself design and installation
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
Prepares concept designs and technical documents for grading, construction, irrigation and planting for permit approval
Collaborates with landscape contractor on project installation

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
Prepares planting plans along with conceptual site improvements
Uses contractors and landscape architects for technical documents, permit process, and installation

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR
Uses landscape designers or landscape architects to create design concepts

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE
Maintains designed landscapes and consults contractors on technical landscape construction

HOMEOWNER DIY
Provides design input, project direction, and funding
Can perform some concept design and installation activities

COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES
WITH AN ESTIMATED 6 MILLION PLUS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS LOOKING TO REDUCE WATER USE, THERE ARE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL TYPES OF LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS UNDER THE STATE’S CURRENT SYSTEM
concept design grading materials
delivery materials installation irrigation
installation planting installation soil protection maintenance

UNDER CURRENT LOCAL AND STATE REGULATIONS A HOMEOWNER HAS MANY OPTIONS FOR LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS
CONCEPT PLAN EXAMPLES

QUALITY DESIGN PLANS CAN BE PREPARED BY LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS OR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
PLAN EXAMPLES

CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLANS & ELEVATIONS

DETAILED DEVELOPMENT PLANS & ELEVATIONS
CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE LAYOUT PLAN FOR DESIGN-BUILD USE

TECHNICAL DOCUMENT PLANS FOR BUILDING PERMIT APPROVAL & CONSTRUCTION
Depending upon the homeowner’s needs, current local & state regulations provide many options for landscape water use reduction.

Landscape architects can address the vertical construction elements of the design; like walls, steps, arbors, etc.
this project design was prepared by a landscape architect but could be drawn up by a landscape designer or landscape contractor

**BEFORE & AFTER TURF REMOVAL**

**BEFORE**
High water use turf grass in front yard and parkway

**AFTER**
Step stones, accent succulents, & low water use colorful shrubs

This design was installed from a planting plan by a landscape contractor. Irrigation was converted from a turf spray to drip irrigation & plans were HOA approved.
the goal of this presentation is to clearly show that within the existing business code and without any workforce barriers, homeowners currently have many options toward meeting the MWELO (model water efficient landscape ordinance) and California’s current regulations for landscape water reductions.