



**MEETING DATE:** August 14, 2023

**PREPARED BY:** Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** MWENDO

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## **BACKGROUND**

In 2015, the Santa Clara County Water Efficient New Development Task Force (“Task Force”) was formed to develop a Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) for jurisdictions in Santa Clara County to adopt. MWENDO includes water efficiency measures for new development projects, which are intended to extend the region’s water supplies. In September 2018, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, on behalf of the Task Force, procured the technical assistance of a qualified sustainability consulting firm to finalize MWENDO, with input from Task Force representatives, the California Building Standards Commission, and the California Energy Commission.

On May 10, 2023, Valley Water confirmed that they are no longer updating MWENDO for the 2022 CBSC adoption cycle, and instead will update it for the next Building Code update.

Staff conducted research and evaluated the feasibility of measures within the current Model Ordinance. They also conducted:

- Peer jurisdiction research to learn what MWENDO measures neighboring cities have adopted,
- Review of the 2022 CBSC (Title 24, CALGreen) for regulations on water efficiency and conservation, and
- Review of the City’s MWELD ordinance for overlap in requirements.

## **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

Staff does not recommend adoption of Valley Water’s current MWENDO Ordinance since many of the measures included are already addressed by existing City Codes. Items not addressed in the City Code are already required by the State of California, are voluntary within the 2022 Green Building Standards Code, or are not recommended for local adoption at this time, as outlined in the MWENDO Cost Effectiveness Study. Furthermore, Valley Water has confirmed that no jurisdictions have adopted MWENDO as a whole or in portions.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends revisiting MWENDO once Valley Water updates the Model Ordinance in conjunction with the next Triennial Building Code update in 2025.