



MEETING DATE: June 12, 2023

SUBJECT: MWENDO

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REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

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.

City staff met in November 2022 with the EC subcommittee, Valley Water, and their contractor, Green Evolution, to get up to speed on MWENDO. City Staff also met internally with the Planning Division to review specific measures within the ordinance.

STATUS UPDATE

On May 10, 2023, Valley Water confirmed that they are no longer updating MWENDO for the 2022 CBSC adoption cycle, but instead are focusing on updating the Model Ordinance in preparation for the upcoming 2025 CBSC adoption cycle. In light of this development, staff will continue to conduct research and evaluate the feasibility of measures within the current Model Ordinance. Staff is currently working on the following:

- Peer jurisdiction research to understand what other MWENDO measures neighboring cities have adopted,
- Reviewing the 2022 California Green Building Standards Code (Title 24, CALGreen) for regulations on water efficiency and conservation, and
- Verifying the City’s MWELD ordinance for overlap in requirements.

Staff is moving forward with additional research and meetings with the Planning and Building Divisions and will provide recommendations at a future meeting.