

**MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
ORDINANCE NO. 470**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13.02 OF TITLE 13 OF THE MARIN
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT CODE ENTITLED WATER SERVICE CONDITIONS
AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES UPDATING DISTRICT WATER
EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MARIN MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. Purpose: The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend District Code section 13.02.021 entitled “Water Conservation: Normal Year Water Conservation” to align with the state of California’s revised Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance (MWELO), which will become effective January 2, 2026. Additionally, this Ordinance will reaffirm several water efficient landscape requirements that are more stringent and intended to yield more water savings than those set forth in MWELO. Furthermore, this Ordinance will adopt provisions of California Water Code section 10608.14 pertaining to the use of potable water for the irrigation of nonfunctional turf.

SECTION 2. A new Subsection 6 of Section 13.02.020 of the Marin Municipal Water District Code entitled “Water waste prohibitions” is hereby added to read as follows:

(6) The District hereby adopts subsections (a) and (b) of section 10608.14 of the California Water Code, which provisions set forth future restrictions on the use of district potable water for the irrigation of nonfunctional turf, as such provisions may be amended from time to time. All terms in this section shall be assigned the meaning set forth in Water Code section 10608.12, as may be amended from time to time, and the definitions set forth in Section 13.02.021(2) of this Chapter shall be of no effect.

SECTION 3. Subsection 5 of Section 13.02.021 of the Marin Municipal Water District Code entitled “Water Efficient Landscaping” is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Section 13.02.021, Subsection (5) entitled “Water Efficient Landscaping”

(5) Water Efficient Landscaping.

- A. The District hereby adopts the California Department of Water Resources Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO), set forth in Title 23, Section 490 *et seq.* of the California Code of Regulations, as may be amended from time to time. For the purposes of this subsection (A), all terms shall be assigned the meaning set forth in Title 23, Section 490.2 of the California Code of Regulations and the definitions set forth in Section 13.02.021(2) of this Chapter shall be of no effect.

- B. Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (A), the more stringent water efficiency requirements set forth in this subsection (B) shall apply and all terms herein shall be assigned the meaning set forth in Section 13.02.021(2) of this Chapter.
1. All of the following projects shall comply with the District Water Efficiency Landscape Plan Review and the requirements set forth in this subsection (B) or conform to the prescriptive measures contained in Appendix D of Section 13.02.021(12):
 - (a) New construction projects with a landscape area equal to or greater than 500 square feet requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check or design review;
 - (b) Rehabilitated landscape projects with a landscape area equal to or greater than 1,000 square feet requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check, or design review; and
 - (c) Any project with a landscape area of less than 1,000 square feet requiring a building or landscape permit, plan check, or design review.
 2. Prohibition on the Irrigation of Non-Functional Turf.
 - (a) For projects subject to the requirements set forth in 13.02.021(5)(B)(1)(a-c), nonfunctional turf irrigated with district water shall be prohibited.
 3. Requirements for Submetering and Manual Shut-Off Valves
 - (a) Separate district landscape water service meters shall be required for all new landscapes, other than single-family and two-unit residential landscapes, for which the irrigated area is equal to or greater than 1,000 square feet.
 - (b) A private submeter shall be required for all rehabilitated landscapes for which the irrigated landscape area is equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet.
 - (c) Manual shut-off valves (such as a gate valve, ball valve, or butterfly valve) shall be required, as close as possible to the point of connection of the water supply and before each valve or valve manifold, to minimize water loss in the event of an emergency (such as a main line break) or routine repair.
 4. Submission of District Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet.
 - (a) The Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet shall be submitted to the District utilizing the Maximum Applied Water Allowance and Estimated Total Water Use worksheet, as may be amended from time to time.
 5. Turf Limits For New Development of Single-Family Residences and Duplexes.
 - (a) Newly developed single-family or duplex residences shall not

install more than 20% of the total residential landscape area, or 1,200 square feet, whichever is less, with turf. This prohibition shall apply to the residential landscapes of all newly developed single-family and duplex residences within the district.

SECTION 4. Subsection 8 of Section 13.02.021 of the Marin Municipal Water District Code entitled “Turf Limits for New Development of Single-Family Residences and Duplexes” is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

(8) Reserved.

SECTION 5. Severability: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, portion or part of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such section shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code. The Board of Directors hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, part or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, parts or portions be declared invalid or unconstitutional and, to that end, declares the provisions of this ordinance severable from one another.

SECTION 6. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days following its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of December, 2025, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Matt Samson
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Terrie Gillen
Board Secretary