

Max Overland

Subject: FW: Sept 23, 2025 Board agenda item 5.1. MWENDO Sierra Club Comment
Attachments: LPSC letter supporting MWENDO 5.2.22--Santa Clara County.pdf

Dear Chair Estremera and Valley Water Board of Directors,

The Sierra Club applauds Valley Water's effort to continue collaborating with Santa Clara County cities on water conservation and water recycling measures, including actions in the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO). The Board should approve sending the proposed letters.

We further recommend that Valley Water look to other ordinance code updates outside of the building code to implement MWENDO or related measures. We also recommend following up with the City of Santa Clara about their requirements for data centers to use recycled water. No requirements were found in the online Santa Clara City Code, so the mechanism for this requirement is currently unclear to us.

We continue to be available to promote MWENDO and other conservation measures if our involvement is perceived as advantageous. Our 2022 letter of support for MWENDO is attached.

Sincerely,

Katja Irvin
Guadalupe Group Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter



SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

May 2, 2022

To Santa Clara County cities and agencies,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter strongly urges you to adopt the Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) developed by Valley Water in collaboration with other local jurisdictions. Our Chapter is promoting the MWENDO to our three-county membership and other constituencies.

The Sierra Club has long advocated for water-use efficiency as the least-cost, least environmentally damaging way to maintain a reliable water supply for our residents and businesses.

The MWENDO measures range from simple efforts such as requiring efficient water heaters, to new programs to facilitate the use of stormwater, condensate, foundation seepage, and recycled water (including recycled graywater and black water).

At minimum we encourage permitting agencies to create pathways to allow, if not require, new development to use these on-site sources of water supply and create water microgrids.

The sooner MWENDO changes are enacted, the better. We cannot wait for state mandates, and we cannot be caught without the tools in place to maximize the efficient use (and reuse) of water.

Climate change and changing hydrology likely will decrease available imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. It is imperative that new and re-constructed buildings use every measure possible to make the most of our available water to assure sufficient water supply.

Valley Water provides several tools to support the process of adding these measures to ordinance codes. We urge you to take advantage of these tools to help ensure a sustainable water supply.

The 2022 municipal Title 24 triennial building code update is an ideal opportunity to require some of these water-wise features for new developments. At the very least, MWENDO's simplest measures can be easily added to your Ordinance Code in 2022, if you have not already done so.

We also encourage jurisdictions to work with permit applicants to voluntarily include these measures in new developments.

Please contact me if you have questions or if we can help in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katja Irvin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katja Irvin, Water Committee Co-chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Cc:

James Eggers
Executive Director
Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club

Gladwyn d'Souza
Conservation Committee Chair
Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club