



# 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,

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