

# This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

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# ECO Gardener & ECO PRO 20X2020



Presented by  
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# Jardineros Ecologicos 2006

- ❖ The pilot program included a Free 4 class series that included:
  - ❖ Basic irrigation
  - ❖ Native plants
  - ❖ Maintenance
  - ❖ Landscape Design
- ❖ The classes were marketed and offered in Spanish
- ❖ These classes became an interest to city and school maintenance crews



Media Coverage from Telemundo 52

# Jardineros Ecologicos becomes ECO Gardener

- ❖ During the pilot program the participants evaluations came back stating that they would like to be Known as “ECO Gardeners”
- ❖ The 70+ trainees received decals for their trucks stating that they had completed the ECO Gardener training program



# ECO Gardener

- ❖ By 2008 over 300 landscapers had been trained
- ❖ By 2009 residents wanted to take part in this new trend of California Friendly and Native Plant landscape training
- ❖ A new curriculum was developed to be given in either English or Spanish.
- ❖ Classes went from 15 to 25 attendees to more than 70 participants per class





# ECO Gardeners

- ❖ Some of these landscapers became a new breed in the industry
- ❖ They had a new and upcoming skill, changing out and maintaining Native Landscapes
- ❖ They were listed on the WRD & MWD websites as trained California Friendly Landscapers



# ECO Gardeners

- ❖ Others enrolled (with WRD's assistance) into extended horticulture classes at local community colleges
- ❖ Some went as far as getting jobs with cities and school districts and some went even further by going in water fields by taking water technology courses and getting certified for waste water treatment operators



# Demand for Municipal Maintenance Crew's Training

- ❖ In 2010 WRD contracted with WaterWise Consulting to develop a training program that could assist municipalities, school districts and water agencies
- ❖ And ECO PRO 20X2020 was born...





# ECO PRO 20X2020



- ✿ The Eco Pro 20X2020 is a customized training program for city, school district and water agency personal
- ✿ In 2011 we launched ECO PRO 20x2020 and had three cities participate
- ✿ Presently we have two trainings going on simultaneity for 8 cities



# ECO PRO 20x2020 Workshops

## ***Workshop 1 – Understating the CA Water Efficient Model Landscape Ordinance (AB 1881)***

- ❖ This workshop educates landscape professionals on AB 1881. It has relative information about water efficient landscape design, irrigation efficiency needs, along with other practical but obligatory water use conscious landscape construction & maintenance goals.

## ***Workshop 2 – Irrigation Systems***

- ❖ Participants evaluate the components and the layout of an irrigation system for efficiency. They also cover new water efficient irrigation technologies available and that are recommended for new installations or during retrofitting/upgrading. A section of the workshop is dedicated to the maintenance of the most common irrigation problems that occur in the landscape as well as possible solutions.

## ***Workshop 3 – Sustainable Landscape Design***

- ❖ The workshop focuses on design concepts, ideas and application techniques which will factor in the use of plant material and their relationship with the surrounding environment for a CA compliant water efficient landscape. These design techniques can then be used in real world applications in the public, CII or residential sectors.

# ECO PRO 20x2020 Workshops

## ***Workshop 4 – Water Efficient Plants***

- ❖ This workshop is designed to show landscape professionals the importance of using water-efficient and California native plant material in the landscape. Participants become familiar with various trees, palms, shrubs, succulents, and groundcovers that are readily available and well suited for this region.

## ***Workshop 5 – Landscape Management***

- ❖ This workshop covers some of the fundamentals of horticulture for sustainable landscape management practices. The instructor discusses the classification, anatomy, nomenclature, & physiology of plants. They also discuss soils, amendments, and nutrient management. There is a section that includes general principles for pruning plants and trees and the best time of the year to prune. Last, they cover some cultural practices that will help minimize the occurrence of certain weeds, diseases and insects while being environmentally conscious.



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