



Webinar

Water Wise Development Coalition Meeting - 4

Date: December 06, 2023

00:00:00 --> 00:00:00: All right.

00:00:02 --> 00:00:02: Well, hi everyone.

00:00:02 --> 00:00:03: Thanks for joining us today.

00:00:04 --> 00:00:07: This is I'm forgetting what number, but it's our next

00:00:07 --> 00:00:09: Water Wise Development Coalition meeting.

00:00:11 --> 00:00:14: For those of you who are new, this is hosted

00:00:14 --> 00:00:17: by the Urban Land Institute in partnership with the Alliance

00:00:18 --> 00:00:21: for Water Efficiency, the Sonoran Institute and the Water

00:00:21 --> 00:00:22: Now

00:00:21 --> 00:00:22: Alliance.

00:00:22 --> 00:00:25: And the whole point of this is to convene land

00:00:25 --> 00:00:29: use and real estate professional professionals with policy

00:00:29 --> 00:00:32: makers and

00:00:29 --> 00:00:32: decision makers to support water wise development and real

00:00:34 --> 00:00:37: estate.

00:00:34 --> 00:00:37: So we do quarterly virtual meetings and I work with

00:00:37 --> 00:00:41: our speakers to set a Wednesday meeting in advance and

00:00:41 --> 00:00:43: I always send out the calendar invite.

00:00:43 --> 00:00:46: So if you, if you or anyone you know wants

00:00:46 --> 00:00:49: to join for future meetings and you're not currently on

00:00:49 --> 00:00:52: the list, I think everyone here is on the list

00:00:52 --> 00:00:52: already.

00:00:52 --> 00:00:55: But for anyone new who wants to join, they can

00:00:56 --> 00:00:59: either e-mail me or they can join via filling out

00:00:59 --> 00:01:02: the survey And I can just, I'll put that in

00:01:02 --> 00:01:04: the chat box, but here's the link.

00:01:07 --> 00:01:09: And we work with you guys to figure out the

00:01:09 --> 00:01:11: the topics for each meeting.

00:01:11 --> 00:01:14: So the topic for this meeting is landscape codes and

00:01:15 --> 00:01:19: resources and we have a wonderful lineup of speakers for

00:01:19 --> 00:01:19: you today.

00:01:19 --> 00:01:22: The 1st is Paul Lander, who is an adjunct professor

00:01:22 --> 00:01:25: at the University of Colorado Boulder and he's done a
00:01:25 --> 00:01:29: lot of research related to water wise landscape ordinances
for
00:01:29 --> 00:01:31: the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.
00:01:32 --> 00:01:35: He'll be followed by Paul Piazza, principal program specialist
for
00:01:35 --> 00:01:39: Sonoma County Water Agency, and he'll be talking about
water
00:01:39 --> 00:01:43: wise and fire wise landscape design templates, guidance and
policies
00:01:43 --> 00:01:45: that they've been implementing.
00:01:45 --> 00:01:49: And then finally, Cassie AO, I'm going to mispronounce your
00:01:49 --> 00:01:50: last name, Ayagi.
00:01:51 --> 00:01:53: Ayagi, thank you so much.
00:01:53 --> 00:01:55: President of Forum LA Landscaping.
00:01:56 --> 00:01:58: And she's going to be talking about on the ground
00:01:58 --> 00:02:02: implementation of water wise landscaping and how that
interfaces with
00:02:02 --> 00:02:05: various policies from the state and local landscape.
00:02:06 --> 00:02:09: And we'll follow up with a group discussion about, you
00:02:09 --> 00:02:12: know, how can we provide resources to you all on
00:02:12 --> 00:02:15: landscape ordinances, templates and implementation?
00:02:16 --> 00:02:19: What sorts of things do you needs and how can
00:02:19 --> 00:02:20: the coalition help?
00:02:23 --> 00:02:23: All right.
00:02:24 --> 00:02:26: So with that, I'm going to turn it over to
00:02:26 --> 00:02:28: our first speaker, Paul Lander.
00:02:31 --> 00:02:32: Thanks, Marianne.
00:02:32 --> 00:02:33: I appreciate it.
00:02:33 --> 00:02:35: And thanks to the Coalition.
00:02:35 --> 00:02:38: I'm going to go ahead and share my screen here.
00:02:47 --> 00:02:50: So thank you to everyone in the Coalition.
00:02:50 --> 00:02:52: For one, just continuing this dialogue.
00:02:53 --> 00:02:56: I'm very excited because there's more dialogue and more
conversation,
00:02:56 --> 00:02:59: more interest in water and water and landscape than there
00:02:59 --> 00:03:01: has been for a long time.
00:03:01 --> 00:03:03: One of the things I was going to say, and
00:03:04 --> 00:03:06: I'll mention again, I'm a veteran of the early 8
00:03:06 --> 00:03:10: days of promoting xeriscape and climate friendly landscapes,
you know,
00:03:10 --> 00:03:11: for decades.
00:03:12 --> 00:03:15: But I would suggest that things are different now probably
00:03:15 --> 00:03:20: because of more awareness of climate change, generational

change, and
00:03:20 --> 00:03:22: just more concern about our water resources.
00:03:22 --> 00:03:24: So that's a good thing.
00:03:24 --> 00:03:26: And so I'd say it's different than it's been in
00:03:26 --> 00:03:26: the past.
00:03:27 --> 00:03:29: Last year, I had the opportunity to work with the
00:03:30 --> 00:03:33: Babbitt Center and review a little bit kind of what's
00:03:33 --> 00:03:34: going on in the West.
00:03:34 --> 00:03:37: And as a cultural geographer or landscape architect, I'm
really
00:03:37 --> 00:03:39: interested in both the large and the small scale.
00:03:39 --> 00:03:41: And I just want to talk a little bit about
00:03:41 --> 00:03:43: what that research revealed to us.
00:03:43 --> 00:03:45: Certainly not the be all and end all on this
00:03:45 --> 00:03:45: topic.
00:03:46 --> 00:03:50: Another good thing, several partners in this coalition have
stepped
00:03:50 --> 00:03:55: up to provide lists and directories, materials, ordinances, that
kind
00:03:55 --> 00:03:56: of thing.
00:03:56 --> 00:03:59: And the interesting thing, it's almost hard to keep up.
00:03:59 --> 00:04:01: Things are changing so rapidly.
00:04:01 --> 00:04:03: So that was part of the pitch to the Babbitt
00:04:03 --> 00:04:03: Center.
00:04:04 --> 00:04:06: Since things are changing so rapidly, what might we learn
00:04:06 --> 00:04:07: from this?
00:04:08 --> 00:04:11: So one of the things I would suggest to you
00:04:11 --> 00:04:15: and part of the the summary really, and looking at
00:04:15 --> 00:04:19: this publication we did was like all these kinds of
00:04:19 --> 00:04:20: things.
00:04:20 --> 00:04:24: This is the urban ecosystem is set up biological, cultural,
00:04:24 --> 00:04:28: there's all kinds of nested systems in here, right.
00:04:28 --> 00:04:31: And part of the reaction to, although I'm gonna talk
00:04:31 --> 00:04:35: about and appreciate the efforts of decision makers and
others
00:04:35 --> 00:04:38: to put a lot of money into identifying and removing
00:04:38 --> 00:04:41: high water turf or non functional turf, those kinds of
00:04:41 --> 00:04:42: things.
00:04:42 --> 00:04:45: I would suggest that I'd say that my water conservation
00:04:45 --> 00:04:48: friends, let's not stop there, right?
00:04:48 --> 00:04:49: The easy part is ripping out the grass.
00:04:49 --> 00:04:51: What else goes in its place?
00:04:51 --> 00:04:54: So we have to understand the urban ecosystem of knowing

00:04:54 --> 00:04:57: our friends, what by our region you are people are
00:04:57 --> 00:04:57: concerned.
00:04:57 --> 00:04:59: Oh, I don't want it to look like Tucson.
00:04:59 --> 00:05:01: It's like, well, everybody shouldn't look like Tucson except Tucson.
00:05:02 --> 00:05:04: And so that's part of the beauty for recognizing what
00:05:04 --> 00:05:05: that is.
00:05:05 --> 00:05:08: And there's codes and regulations that help communities
kind of
00:05:08 --> 00:05:09: define what they want to look like.
00:05:10 --> 00:05:12: So the other thing is we have a lot of
00:05:12 --> 00:05:14: people who I would say kind of jump ahead, they
00:05:14 --> 00:05:17: want to remove all the turf, but they don't have
00:05:17 --> 00:05:20: codes in place that actually reinforce the kind of community
00:05:20 --> 00:05:22: and the kind of landscape they want to have.
00:05:22 --> 00:05:24: So you have to make sure that gets in place
00:05:24 --> 00:05:27: before you start a wholesale landscape conversion.
00:05:28 --> 00:05:31: The other one is the planners particularly.
00:05:31 --> 00:05:32: Don't take this on yourself.
00:05:32 --> 00:05:33: Create and engage A-Team.
00:05:33 --> 00:05:36: There's a host of people in your communities.
00:05:36 --> 00:05:39: And as we'll talk about when you convert the landscape,
00:05:39 --> 00:05:42: there are multiple benefits to accrue to communities and to
00:05:42 --> 00:05:44: the natural ecosystems from this.
00:05:44 --> 00:05:46: And so there's also been a lot of collective and
00:05:46 --> 00:05:49: collaborative professionals who may want to be a part of
00:05:49 --> 00:05:49: that.
00:05:50 --> 00:05:51: And we'll talk about that a little bit more.
00:05:52 --> 00:05:55: And then ultimately, like everything, utilize adaptive
management, right?
00:05:55 --> 00:05:56: We have to measure that.
00:05:56 --> 00:05:59: And I'll know as part of the water conservation community
00:05:59 --> 00:06:02: in the past, we've often been promoting of the landscape
00:06:02 --> 00:06:05: change, but didn't actually measure the changes that took
place
00:06:05 --> 00:06:08: to know that if they really did make the difference.
00:06:09 --> 00:06:10: So why now?
00:06:11 --> 00:06:13: Well, there's a recognized need for change, right?
00:06:13 --> 00:06:15: From a climate change and a large conversation, right?
00:06:15 --> 00:06:18: And so we all get that and it's in the
00:06:18 --> 00:06:19: news all the time.
00:06:19 --> 00:06:23: And there's lots of things from the IPCC, international airports
00:06:23 --> 00:06:26: to things that come out in Colorado, any one of

00:06:26 --> 00:06:29: our Western states concerned about what is the future portend.

00:06:29 --> 00:06:32: And we know in the water arena particularly that if

00:06:32 --> 00:06:35: you look at with climate change, it's a much more

00:06:35 --> 00:06:37: dire situation that we have right now.

00:06:37 --> 00:06:39: So if a who's everyone to think about and take

00:06:39 --> 00:06:42: assessment of, are we using our water resources in the

00:06:42 --> 00:06:45: best way we think possible for the benefit of the

00:06:45 --> 00:06:47: largest component of our communities?

00:06:47 --> 00:06:47: Right.

00:06:47 --> 00:06:50: And without that, we're going to see in urban areas,

00:06:50 --> 00:06:52: you know, all these detrimental effects.

00:06:52 --> 00:06:55: And so one of the positive things is thinking about

00:06:55 --> 00:06:58: changing that heat is a huge issue we had now

00:06:58 --> 00:07:00: for the first time in cultural change in the last

00:07:00 --> 00:07:04: five years, large cities now have chief heat officers, right,

00:07:04 --> 00:07:06: looking specifically at heat impact.

00:07:06 --> 00:07:09: So again, the world is changing and there's an opportunity

00:07:09 --> 00:07:11: for all of us in this coalition.

00:07:11 --> 00:07:14: And that would only be part of the conversation, but

00:07:14 --> 00:07:16: to investigate what some options might be for the future.

00:07:17 --> 00:07:19: You all know this intuitively and there's a bunch of

00:07:19 --> 00:07:20: different graphics out there.

00:07:20 --> 00:07:24: That's what happens to be grabbing from Phoenix area.

00:07:24 --> 00:07:28: But in most Western communities, a lion's share of treated

00:07:28 --> 00:07:32: drinking water goes to landscapes and all, not necessarily

00:07:32 --> 00:07:36: appropriately or utilized very straightforward.

00:07:36 --> 00:07:39: Well, another reason why now, because of all this, there's

00:07:39 --> 00:07:41: a policy spotlight on this, right?

00:07:42 --> 00:07:44: Policy makers at every kind of level have done that.

00:07:44 --> 00:07:46: And there's a large lot of money kind of going

00:07:46 --> 00:07:47: after that, right?

00:07:48 --> 00:07:50: It became very clear to me a couple years ago

00:07:50 --> 00:07:53: that Nevada Legislature raised the bar.

00:07:53 --> 00:07:55: And I don't think it goes too far to say

00:07:56 --> 00:07:58: that a lot of things, well, to the urban landscape,

00:07:58 --> 00:08:01: there has been not much standard and anybody could be

00:08:01 --> 00:08:02: engaged.

00:08:02 --> 00:08:03: And that's both a good and a bad thing.

00:08:03 --> 00:08:06: And so part of the things that's happening is we're

00:08:06 --> 00:08:09: having a discern where we want to use water, where

00:08:09 --> 00:08:12: we think we get the most bang for our efforts

00:08:12 --> 00:08:15: there and who should be taking care of that or
00:08:15 --> 00:08:18: what kind of training should they have locally in Castle
00:08:18 --> 00:08:21: Rock in Colorado, right, with Castle Rock and Aurora 2
00:08:21 --> 00:08:24: cities here that have gotten way out ahead of the
00:08:24 --> 00:08:28: curve because they have relatively junior or smaller water
rights
00:08:28 --> 00:08:29: portfolios.
00:08:29 --> 00:08:31: And so they've been very quite aggressive and trying to
00:08:31 --> 00:08:34: define the future community that they want to look like.
00:08:36 --> 00:08:37: And at the end of the day, there's a lot
00:08:37 --> 00:08:39: of money floating out there, right?
00:08:39 --> 00:08:42: California spend his Cassie's going to talk about hundreds of
00:08:42 --> 00:08:45: millions of dollars in their mid teens, drought, ripping out
00:08:45 --> 00:08:48: lawns, most of which is a positive thing, many of
00:08:48 --> 00:08:49: which are questionable.
00:08:49 --> 00:08:50: And she'll talk about that.
00:08:51 --> 00:08:53: The states of Colorado and Utah have both put a
00:08:53 --> 00:08:54: lot of money in there.
00:08:54 --> 00:08:57: Utah's talking about \$5 million now on their mayor to
00:08:57 --> 00:08:58: \$10 million.
00:08:58 --> 00:09:01: So the good news for those of us interested in
00:09:01 --> 00:09:04: urban water wise development, there's a lot of support out
00:09:04 --> 00:09:06: there both in regulation and money.
00:09:07 --> 00:09:10: But I would suggest most of those folks, while they're
00:09:10 --> 00:09:13: really motivated, need the assistance of a group like this
00:09:13 --> 00:09:17: so that make sure we're spending our money wisely and
00:09:17 --> 00:09:20: getting what we really look for in the review.
00:09:20 --> 00:09:20: In this report.
00:09:20 --> 00:09:22: If you go look at it while we've looked at
00:09:22 --> 00:09:26: review the literature, both professional and academic
literature with over
00:09:26 --> 00:09:29: 130 references in the annotated bibliography.
00:09:29 --> 00:09:31: So we not only just give you what the citation
00:09:31 --> 00:09:33: is, but a little synopsis of what are some kind
00:09:33 --> 00:09:34: of key points to it.
00:09:34 --> 00:09:36: So it makes it a little easier for a planner
00:09:36 --> 00:09:38: to go through and identify those resources that might be
00:09:38 --> 00:09:39: most applicable.
00:09:40 --> 00:09:43: The good news is there's better science all the time
00:09:43 --> 00:09:47: about urban areas relative to the conditions of the
performance
00:09:47 --> 00:09:51: of trees, turf, different kinds of vegetation, storm water runoff,

00:09:51 --> 00:09:53: heat up, all those kinds of things.

00:09:54 --> 00:09:57: And we also looked at a fair amount of legislation,

00:09:57 --> 00:09:58: right, Lots of different ordinances.

00:09:58 --> 00:10:01: And like I said, you can certainly connect back with

00:10:01 --> 00:10:02: the coalition later.

00:10:02 --> 00:10:05: There's other places, people on this call who have really

00:10:05 --> 00:10:06: good ordinance inventory.

00:10:06 --> 00:10:08: And again, it's growing all the time.

00:10:08 --> 00:10:11: But we see this from small to large communities across

00:10:11 --> 00:10:13: the West, and they're being quite specific.

00:10:13 --> 00:10:15: And the kinds of things that you can see in

00:10:15 --> 00:10:18: these code elements, the kinds of things they're calling out

00:10:18 --> 00:10:21: that are different than before, that are raising the bar

00:10:21 --> 00:10:22: from anything goes.

00:10:24 --> 00:10:28: As I mentioned before, really encouraging planners,

particularly on whom

00:10:28 --> 00:10:29: this is falling.

00:10:29 --> 00:10:31: Many planners across the West, this is falling on their

00:10:31 --> 00:10:32: desk.

00:10:32 --> 00:10:33: Hey, Paul, you're a water person.

00:10:33 --> 00:10:35: Go get some of that state money.

00:10:35 --> 00:10:37: Well, a lot of planners are not a landscape person.

00:10:37 --> 00:10:38: They're not a water person.

00:10:38 --> 00:10:40: They're wondering how they're going to navigate all this.

00:10:41 --> 00:10:43: So The thing is, take a deep breath and recognize

00:10:43 --> 00:10:46: there were a host of other allied professionals who have

00:10:46 --> 00:10:49: that expertise and because of the Co benefits, would really

00:10:49 --> 00:10:51: love to be a part of this kind of thing,

00:10:51 --> 00:10:52: right?

00:10:52 --> 00:10:54: And what are some of those benefits?

00:10:54 --> 00:10:56: We identified and got this from the literature as well

00:10:56 --> 00:10:57: as some of the things.

00:10:57 --> 00:10:59: This is from Denver Parks and Recreation, just grabbed this

00:10:59 --> 00:11:01: slide the other day, right?

00:11:01 --> 00:11:04: They're looking at incorporating a lot more native grasses

because

00:11:04 --> 00:11:06: of all these benefits you see on the left.

00:11:06 --> 00:11:09: What I'm going to suggest because it's an ecosystem, there

00:11:09 --> 00:11:13: are allied professionals relative to each one of those benefits

00:11:13 --> 00:11:15: who historically we have been invited in by we, I

00:11:15 --> 00:11:19: mean historically where the money has come from for

landscape

00:11:19 --> 00:11:22: has been from water providers and they've kind of gone

00:11:22 --> 00:11:25: it alone that Arizona over ice, which is just it's
00:11:25 --> 00:11:28: too big to handle by themselves and they really benefit
00:11:28 --> 00:11:29: if they do that.
00:11:29 --> 00:11:32: One example of that is coming to San Diego where
00:11:32 --> 00:11:35: they've actually now for the first time in my knowledge,
00:11:35 --> 00:11:39: married the water quality people and the water quantity
people.
00:11:39 --> 00:11:42: And so the water quality people said, oh, this landscape
00:11:42 --> 00:11:45: conversion has a lot of benefit for us.
00:11:45 --> 00:11:48: It keeps dry weather flow, you know, irrigation water flying
00:11:48 --> 00:11:51: all of our hardscapes and then ultimately going into the
00:11:51 --> 00:11:54: storm water system in the ocean that they are under
00:11:54 --> 00:11:55: EPA guidance to clean up.
00:11:55 --> 00:11:57: That helps us too.
00:11:57 --> 00:11:57: Can we play?
00:11:58 --> 00:11:59: So they throw water into the pot.
00:11:59 --> 00:12:01: And I think we're going to see more and more
00:12:01 --> 00:12:03: of these stacked incentives, as we call them.
00:12:04 --> 00:12:06: And you can see just a few of the things
00:12:06 --> 00:12:09: of all the many benefits that come out of this
00:12:09 --> 00:12:10: kind of conversion.
00:12:10 --> 00:12:13: And by understanding, measuring these kinds of things, we
help
00:12:13 --> 00:12:16: make the case to invite partners in and to be
00:12:16 --> 00:12:19: part of our coalition and a part of our efforts.
00:12:19 --> 00:12:22: So the last thing we did, we talked to over
00:12:22 --> 00:12:25: 75 professionals and they reiterated and confirmed a lot of
00:12:25 --> 00:12:27: things that you all know, right?
00:12:27 --> 00:12:28: We need long term policy.
00:12:28 --> 00:12:30: This is not a one and done.
00:12:30 --> 00:12:32: This is a generational change, right?
00:12:32 --> 00:12:34: But the good news of lots of property owners from
00:12:34 --> 00:12:38: residential to commercial are interested in climate friendly
landscapes.
00:12:38 --> 00:12:41: And we're going to need lots more training for planners,
00:12:41 --> 00:12:44: for people on the ground, all those kind of things.
00:12:44 --> 00:12:46: And so again, while most of the money to date
00:12:46 --> 00:12:50: has gone to taking out the landscape material, the turf,
00:12:50 --> 00:12:54: I'm going to advocate for spreading that money around and
00:12:54 --> 00:12:58: actually helping with training and education and helping all of
00:12:58 --> 00:13:00: us look at another future for that.
00:13:01 --> 00:13:03: Finally, at the end of the day, the thing that
00:13:03 --> 00:13:06: most of us like about work in this field, aesthetics

00:13:06 --> 00:13:07: matter, right?

00:13:07 --> 00:13:10: So both of these photos are, quote, water wise, but

00:13:10 --> 00:13:14: there's a lot more people concerned across the West of

00:13:14 --> 00:13:17: these programs and policies coming in so rapidly.

00:13:17 --> 00:13:19: The communities are gonna look more like the left than

00:13:19 --> 00:13:20: they are on the right.

00:13:20 --> 00:13:24: So with that, I'd say thanks again for your time.

00:13:24 --> 00:13:27: We've got some time for questions and then we're going

00:13:27 --> 00:13:29: to hear from a couple of other folks about some

00:13:29 --> 00:13:32: framing from the water provider level as well as from

00:13:32 --> 00:13:34: taxi about on the ground.

00:13:37 --> 00:13:39: And I don't know how I can find my cursor

00:13:39 --> 00:13:40: to stop this year.

00:13:41 --> 00:13:42: Thanks so much, Paul.

00:13:43 --> 00:13:43: Yep.

00:13:43 --> 00:13:45: So we can take a a few questions for Paul

00:13:45 --> 00:13:47: before we move on to the next speaker.

00:13:48 --> 00:13:49: Does anyone have any questions?

00:13:54 --> 00:13:56: If not, we can hold them until the end.

00:13:56 --> 00:13:58: You're also welcome to put your questions in the chat

00:13:58 --> 00:14:00: box and we can address them afterwards so you don't

00:14:00 --> 00:14:01: forget your questions.

00:14:03 --> 00:14:04: OK, great.

00:14:04 --> 00:14:05: Thank you, Paul.

00:14:05 --> 00:14:09: All right, our next speaker is another Paul, Paul Thiazza.

00:14:11 --> 00:14:12: Oh, you're muted, Paul.

00:14:14 --> 00:14:15: Thanks, Marianne.

00:14:16 --> 00:14:17: Good afternoon, everybody.

00:14:18 --> 00:14:20: Let me get my presentation up on the screen.

00:14:24 --> 00:14:25: All right, good to go.

00:14:27 --> 00:14:30: So I appreciate you having me today.

00:14:30 --> 00:14:31: Again, my name is Paul Piazza.

00:14:31 --> 00:14:34: I'm the water use efficiency manager for Sonoma Water, and

00:14:35 --> 00:14:38: I'm going to be talking about the water Smart landscape

00:14:38 --> 00:14:41: design templates, which were a project of the Cinema Rin

00:14:41 --> 00:14:43: Saving Water partnership.

00:14:43 --> 00:14:46: And I would like to recognize all the other partners

00:14:46 --> 00:14:50: that were involved in making this project successful.

00:14:51 --> 00:14:54: And Baker Landscape Architects in particular was hired as

00:14:54 --> 00:14:55: our

00:14:54 --> 00:14:55: project lead.

00:14:55 --> 00:14:58: But there were a lot of meaningful contributions over the

00:14:59 --> 00:15:02: number of years that this project took to be successful,
00:15:02 --> 00:15:03: and they're noted here.

00:15:04 --> 00:15:08: Similarly, there were many individual champions at the agencies that

00:15:08 --> 00:15:12: deserve some recognition, including my predecessor at Sonoma Water at

00:15:12 --> 00:15:15: the time, Carrie Pollard, who's now working with Marin Water.

00:15:16 --> 00:15:19: And then also want to recognize several other key staff
00:15:19 --> 00:15:21: at the City of Santa Rosa and on my staff
00:15:21 --> 00:15:23: currently as being involved.

00:15:23 --> 00:15:27: A little bit about the partnership itself.

00:15:27 --> 00:15:30: We are a group of 13 water utilities in Northern
00:15:30 --> 00:15:33: California just north of the San Francisco Bay region.
00:15:34 --> 00:15:38: We're a single regional wholesale water supplier, which is Sonoma
00:15:38 --> 00:15:39: Water.

00:15:39 --> 00:15:44: And essentially the partnership was formed in 2010 with our
00:15:44 --> 00:15:48: primary retail contractors that we provide water to.
00:15:48 --> 00:15:51: So there were eight of them and also Marin Water
00:15:51 --> 00:15:53: who contracts with us for retail water.

00:15:54 --> 00:15:58: Over the years, the partnership has grown to include Cal
00:15:58 --> 00:16:01: American Water, which is CPUC regulated utility and also the
00:16:01 --> 00:16:04: city of Healdsburg and Cloverdale.
00:16:04 --> 00:16:07: So any of these utilities essentially have as a water
00:16:08 --> 00:16:09: source the Russian rivers.
00:16:10 --> 00:16:13: We all have that connection and the approach of the
00:16:13 --> 00:16:18: partnership was that we're trying to act together to maximize
00:16:18 --> 00:16:23: economies of scale essentially and maximize water savings in the
00:16:23 --> 00:16:24: region.

00:16:25 --> 00:16:29: And although Sonoma Water is the wholesaler takes a lead
00:16:29 --> 00:16:33: to manage the the work of the partnership, we're provided
00:16:33 --> 00:16:39: direction from a technical advisory committee that's
00:16:39 --> 00:16:44: comprised of staff
00:16:44 --> 00:16:48: from each of the retail contractors, the templates themselves.
00:16:48 --> 00:16:50: And the project came about because of the devastating
00:16:50 --> 00:16:53: effects
00:16:53 --> 00:16:56: of the 2017 Tubs fire.
00:16:56 --> 00:16:59: This was a wind driven fire that started in the
00:16:59 --> 00:17:00: late hours on October 8th near Tubs Lane in a
00:16:59 --> 00:17:00: rural area just north of the city of Calistoga and
00:16:59 --> 00:17:00: Napa County.

00:17:00 --> 00:17:03: But within five hours or so managed to travel over
00:17:03 --> 00:17:08: 25 miles to the southwest into the densely populated neighborhoods
00:17:08 --> 00:17:11: of the city of Santa Rosa, such as Coffee Park,
00:17:11 --> 00:17:14: which is the subdivision that's pictured here.
00:17:15 --> 00:17:17: Over 5600 homes were lost.
00:17:17 --> 00:17:22: Half of those occurred within the city of Santa Rosa
00:17:22 --> 00:17:26: and at the time this was the largest loss of
00:17:26 --> 00:17:29: property in the history of California.
00:17:30 --> 00:17:34: Unfortunately, that has been eclipsed by a few other fires
00:17:34 --> 00:17:35: in the last couple of years.
00:17:37 --> 00:17:40: Consequently, there was a goal for this project to support
00:17:41 --> 00:17:45: the community and the rebuilding effort and particularly in providing
00:17:45 --> 00:17:50: A streamlined approach for meeting the requirements for water efficient
00:17:50 --> 00:17:54: landscapes that exist statewide in California and to also recognize
00:17:54 --> 00:17:58: that there is significant cost incurred for the rebuilders to
00:17:58 --> 00:18:01: get their landscapes reconstructed.
00:18:01 --> 00:18:05: We also wanted to increase the water efficiency of the
00:18:05 --> 00:18:08: landscapes that were going in in place of the existing
00:18:08 --> 00:18:12: landscapes of the time and incorporating into that work not
00:18:12 --> 00:18:16: only water saving designs, but also recognizing the need to
00:18:16 --> 00:18:19: be resilience in the face of climate change and also
00:18:19 --> 00:18:21: incorporate fire safer practices.
00:18:23 --> 00:18:27: Some of the sustainable design elements that were included in
00:18:27 --> 00:18:30: the templates were to make a shift to increase the
00:18:30 --> 00:18:34: actual pervious surfaces on the landscape, whether it's in the
00:18:34 --> 00:18:38: landscape itself or whether it's in the choice of hardscapes
00:18:38 --> 00:18:40: around those landscapes.
00:18:41 --> 00:18:46: Recognizing the benefits of disconnecting the downspouts to
infiltrate that
00:18:46 --> 00:18:47: rainwater into the ground.
00:18:48 --> 00:18:53: Incorporating some additional systems around rooftop
rainwater catcher or use
00:18:53 --> 00:18:54: of grey water.
00:18:55 --> 00:18:59: Make sure that shade trees are incorporated to curb the
00:18:59 --> 00:19:02: urban heat effect that is only going to grow in
00:19:02 --> 00:19:03: the future.
00:19:03 --> 00:19:08: And then build habitat and grow additional food where it's
00:19:08 --> 00:19:09: going to be consumed.
00:19:12 --> 00:19:17: In regard to the water efficient landscape ordinance in

California,
00:19:17 --> 00:19:22: there's really 2 tracks or performance lines that you can
00:19:22 --> 00:19:23: follow.
00:19:23 --> 00:19:27: So for those landscapes that are above 2500 square feet,
00:19:27 --> 00:19:32: essentially California requires a water budget based
compliance track where
00:19:32 --> 00:19:36: the design of the landscape and its estimated water use
00:19:36 --> 00:19:39: must be below what is calculated as a maximum applied
00:19:39 --> 00:19:40: water allowance.
00:19:41 --> 00:19:45: But for those landscapes that are below 2500 square feet,
00:19:45 --> 00:19:49: there is a very simplified prescriptive performance track and
that
00:19:49 --> 00:19:53: was really the target of the landscape template project.
00:19:54 --> 00:19:58: For that, there is a breakout of 75% low water
00:19:58 --> 00:20:01: use plants versus 25% medium.
00:20:01 --> 00:20:06: And as noted, a few other requirements as well for
00:20:06 --> 00:20:08: the fire safe guidelines.
00:20:09 --> 00:20:12: Many of you are probably very familiar with these, but
00:20:12 --> 00:20:15: we wanted to make sure that the rebuilding process did
00:20:15 --> 00:20:19: provide some resiliency in the face of additional future threats
00:20:19 --> 00:20:20: from fire.
00:20:21 --> 00:20:25: We do have a somewhat urban, rural interface in this
00:20:25 --> 00:20:28: area, so we wanted to make sure at least one
00:20:28 --> 00:20:33: of or two of the designs incorporated the wildland urban
00:20:33 --> 00:20:38: interface requirements in California and making sure that we
were
00:20:38 --> 00:20:43: following good practices and consultation with our fire
officials.
00:20:44 --> 00:20:49: The design templates itself were based off 4 different design
00:20:49 --> 00:20:49: styles.
00:20:50 --> 00:20:53: Each of these had two different templates, both kind of
00:20:53 --> 00:20:57: a a smaller square footage and a larger square footage.
00:20:57 --> 00:21:02: And then we also incorporated corner lots and cul-de-sac lot
00:21:02 --> 00:21:04: examples for home owners to use.
00:21:06 --> 00:21:11: The design template package that was made available
includes not
00:21:11 --> 00:21:15: only the actual template designs, but also conceptual plans
to
00:21:16 --> 00:21:19: show how the the gardens would sort of integrate with
00:21:20 --> 00:21:22: both the side and backyard landscapes.
00:21:23 --> 00:21:27: Recognizing that homeowners would, you know, preferably
like to know
00:21:27 --> 00:21:30: what the design is going to look at maturity.
00:21:30 --> 00:21:33: We did develop 3D renderings as well.

00:21:34 --> 00:21:38: And then it was expected that these design templates would
00:21:38 --> 00:21:42: be customized where needed to fit the various different size
00:21:42 --> 00:21:42: landscape.
00:21:43 --> 00:21:46: So we did, you know, create sample markup sheets, we
00:21:46 --> 00:21:52: developed plant substitution lists recognizing that sourcing
00:21:52 --> 00:21:56: plan inventory from
00:21:56 --> 00:22:00: local nurseries might not always go smoothly or that
00:21:56 --> 00:22:00: customer
00:21:56 --> 00:22:00: choice may dictate an interest in making some small
00:22:00 --> 00:22:04: changes.
00:22:00 --> 00:22:04: And then lastly, there were cost opinions developed
00:22:04 --> 00:22:07: recognizing that
00:22:04 --> 00:22:07: some of these templates were developed at a lower price
00:22:07 --> 00:22:09: point, some of them had a little bit higher costs
00:22:09 --> 00:22:11: and to leave that up to the home or to
00:22:11 --> 00:22:14: choose the design that best fits their needs.
00:22:15 --> 00:22:17: So just want to go through a few of the
00:22:17 --> 00:22:17: examples.
00:22:17 --> 00:22:21: Now what you're looking at is one of the actual
00:22:22 --> 00:22:23: planting sheets.
00:22:24 --> 00:22:28: So you you've got both a full size planting design
00:22:28 --> 00:22:30: and irrigation design plan sets.
00:22:30 --> 00:22:34: These are the standard 24 inch by 36 inch size
00:22:34 --> 00:22:37: that are essentially print ready.
00:22:38 --> 00:22:41: And then, although I'm not going to go through them
00:22:41 --> 00:22:44: today, there are other detail sheets for the needs of
00:22:44 --> 00:22:48: the the project for both the planting, irrigation, paving, and
00:22:48 --> 00:22:52: all the sustainability features that are incorporated.
00:22:54 --> 00:22:56: This is one of the conceptual design plans.
00:22:57 --> 00:23:00: In this particular case, it's representing the native adaptive
00:23:00 --> 00:23:03: design.
00:23:00 --> 00:23:03: And a couple of photos just to help people grasp
00:23:04 --> 00:23:07: what these landscapes could bring to their home.
00:23:07 --> 00:23:11: This is an example of the 3D rendering shown here.
00:23:11 --> 00:23:15: The trees are absent and that was done specifically to
00:23:15 --> 00:23:18: help the homeowners to get a sense of the landscape,
00:23:18 --> 00:23:21: of the lower canopy of the landscape as planted.
00:23:22 --> 00:23:26: There was 3 conceptual designs created for the landscape,
00:23:26 --> 00:23:30: so
00:23:26 --> 00:23:30: without the trees, with the trees at newly planted stage.
00:23:30 --> 00:23:33: And then here you can see what the landscape would
00:23:33 --> 00:23:35: look like with the trees at maturity.
00:23:36 --> 00:23:39: And so just running through some of these examples quickly,

00:23:39 --> 00:23:43: this is the contemporary design, which was designed to bring
00:23:43 --> 00:23:47: kind of a modern and minimalist clean look, something that's
00:23:47 --> 00:23:49: a little bit easier to maintain.

00:23:49 --> 00:23:52: And similarly, this is kind of a look with the
00:23:52 --> 00:23:57: conceptual design without the trees and with the shade trees.
00:23:59 --> 00:24:02: Moving on to the eco edible, the landscape design here
00:24:02 --> 00:24:06: again is just a mix of edible and habitat plantings
00:24:06 --> 00:24:11: that help kind of maximize the sustainability of the landscape
00:24:11 --> 00:24:15: in terms of providing beneficial habitat, lessening the need for
00:24:15 --> 00:24:20: introduced pest controls, developing food sources at site and
the

00:24:20 --> 00:24:20: like.
00:24:21 --> 00:24:24: So conceptually, 3D rendering without the trees.
00:24:24 --> 00:24:27: This is the front yard and there is a little
00:24:27 --> 00:24:28: bit of community space.
00:24:29 --> 00:24:32: It's hard to see in detail here, but each of
00:24:32 --> 00:24:36: these plans does incorporate stormwater elements.
00:24:37 --> 00:24:39: So do you see here there's a bit of a
00:24:40 --> 00:24:44: dry Creek bed that works with these landscape or hardscape
00:24:44 --> 00:24:49: features to drain into capture and infiltrate storm water.
00:24:49 --> 00:24:53: And then the Parkway strip between sidewalk and curb is
00:24:53 --> 00:24:58: also a depressed catchment as well for rainwater collection
and

00:24:58 --> 00:24:59: infiltration.
00:24:59 --> 00:25:01: So again here with the trees shown.
00:25:03 --> 00:25:04: And then lastly, the cottage style.
00:25:04 --> 00:25:07: This is sort of a a Sonoma version of the
00:25:07 --> 00:25:11: cottage garden, recognizing that, you know, the over planted
cottage

00:25:11 --> 00:25:15: version that's popular in Europe doesn't quite hold mustard
here
00:25:15 --> 00:25:19: with the Mediterranean climate, but still provides a lot of
00:25:19 --> 00:25:23: natural materials and very colorful plantings that give you that
00:25:23 --> 00:25:24: very full look.
00:25:24 --> 00:25:30: And here again, a 3D concept without the trees incorporating
00:25:30 --> 00:25:35: some of the permeability of the swales and LID features
00:25:35 --> 00:25:40: there between the Parkway strip and curb and then with
00:25:40 --> 00:25:41: the trees again.
00:25:43 --> 00:25:48: So recognizing that there is a lot of different lot
00:25:48 --> 00:25:52: shapes and sizes, we made these to be customizable.
00:25:53 --> 00:25:58: We did provide plans with markup as examples for them
00:25:58 --> 00:26:02: to be able to make adjustments to the layout and
00:26:02 --> 00:26:08: planting plan and adjust the irrigation plan and provided a

00:26:08 --> 00:26:13: desktop manual that included step by We also hosted a
00:26:13 --> 00:26:19: couple of workshops with landscape architects that were
donating their
00:26:19 --> 00:26:25: time essentially to help homeowners that needed some
hands on
00:26:25 --> 00:26:29: help to make these customizations work for them.
00:26:30 --> 00:26:33: And to date, in discussion with the City of Santa
00:26:33 --> 00:26:37: Rosa staff, it's estimated that about 40% of the homes
00:26:37 --> 00:26:41: that are going through the rebuild have utilized these design
00:26:41 --> 00:26:42: templates.
00:26:43 --> 00:26:47: More recently, we're happy to announce that we've finished a
00:26:47 --> 00:26:52: project to develop a companion maintenance manual, which
essentially was
00:26:52 --> 00:26:56: for the recognition that homeowners are creating a very new
00:26:57 --> 00:27:00: landscape that maybe is not something they've had a lot
00:27:00 --> 00:27:05: of experience maintaining and they're going to have a need
00:27:05 --> 00:27:08: to kind of relearn and get some guidance on how
00:27:08 --> 00:27:09: to do that.
00:27:10 --> 00:27:11: So that was really the focus of this work.
00:27:11 --> 00:27:15: Although it is, you know, an open source resource that
00:27:15 --> 00:27:19: is applicable to any low water use landscape in our
00:27:19 --> 00:27:20: region.
00:27:20 --> 00:27:24: It really is nice because it includes a maintenance calendar
00:27:24 --> 00:27:28: that helps drive activity throughout the year to make sure
00:27:28 --> 00:27:31: that they're taking care of any of the important tasks
00:27:31 --> 00:27:35: needed to both continue to water the landscape efficiently or
00:27:35 --> 00:27:38: to make adjustments based on any plant mortality that should
00:27:38 --> 00:27:42: occur over time and then just seasonal maintenance task.
00:27:43 --> 00:27:46: So with that, I'm happy to end and take any
00:27:46 --> 00:27:47: questions.
00:27:51 --> 00:27:52: Thank you, Paul.
00:27:52 --> 00:27:54: I love seeing those garden design styles.
00:27:54 --> 00:27:58: It's so different when you're looking at like a, you
00:27:58 --> 00:28:02: know, an architectural rendering versus an actual image.
00:28:02 --> 00:28:03: I think that's great.
00:28:05 --> 00:28:06: I'll start with a quick question.
00:28:06 --> 00:28:10: I noticed that there wasn't defensible space included in those
00:28:10 --> 00:28:10: templates.
00:28:10 --> 00:28:13: Was there a reason why you guys didn't include that?
00:28:15 --> 00:28:19: In the sense that these are urban subdivisions, they did
00:28:19 --> 00:28:23: include artscapes within the 1st 5 feet or materials that
00:28:24 --> 00:28:28: were suitable such as inorganic mulch in place of wood
00:28:28 --> 00:28:30: type chip mulch material.

00:28:31 --> 00:28:35: But we aren't necessarily for these landscape templates within that

00:28:35 --> 00:28:37: Wilden urban interface.

00:28:37 --> 00:28:42: That requires much more extensive, you know, design parameters to

00:28:42 --> 00:28:45: meet that defensible space requirement.

00:28:49 --> 00:28:49: Yeah.

00:28:49 --> 00:28:51: Does anyone else have questions?

00:28:53 --> 00:28:54: Go ahead, Scott.

00:28:55 --> 00:28:55: Yeah.

00:28:55 --> 00:28:59: I wondered, Paul, if you'd worked at all with, you

00:28:59 --> 00:29:04: know, local hardware stores, nurseries otherwise to like kind of

00:29:04 --> 00:29:09: coordinate your calendar and newsletters and things like that to

00:29:09 --> 00:29:14: give give regular reminders to people of what maintenance task

00:29:14 --> 00:29:18: is coming up and what supplies they might need, things

00:29:18 --> 00:29:19: like that.

00:29:21 --> 00:29:22: Yeah, Thanks, Scott.

00:29:22 --> 00:29:23: That's a great question.

00:29:24 --> 00:29:26: I can't say that we've been doing any of our

00:29:26 --> 00:29:29: social media outreach that we would normally be doing on

00:29:29 --> 00:29:31: behalf of the partnership to target the maintenance of the

00:29:32 --> 00:29:32: landscapes per SE.

00:29:33 --> 00:29:36: But we do push out a lot of information about

00:29:36 --> 00:29:40: the availability of the maintenance manual itself through our social

00:29:40 --> 00:29:43: media channels and on our website and we let the

00:29:43 --> 00:29:48: calendar in the maintenance manual sort of drive that conversation.

00:29:50 --> 00:29:50: Thanks.

00:29:54 --> 00:29:58: Along those lines, do you coordinate with nurseries on availability

00:29:58 --> 00:30:01: of native plants or other plants that are included in

00:30:01 --> 00:30:02: your designs?

00:30:03 --> 00:30:07: We haven't taken that step, although the partnership does have

00:30:07 --> 00:30:11: another program called the Water Smart Plant Label program that

00:30:11 --> 00:30:15: coordinates with all of our regional nursery partners to both

00:30:15 --> 00:30:18: brand and label all low water use plants that they

00:30:18 --> 00:30:20: have available for sale.

00:30:20 --> 00:30:24: And we do maintain a list of those participating nurseries

00:30:24 --> 00:30:27: on the partnership website and do a lot of outreach
00:30:27 --> 00:30:31: to our constituents to make them aware that those partnering
00:30:31 --> 00:30:34: nurseries are better able to serve their needs for this
00:30:34 --> 00:30:36: project and for other needs.
00:30:40 --> 00:30:40: Thank you.
00:30:41 --> 00:30:48: Any other questions, I'm not seeing any.
00:30:48 --> 00:30:51: As a reminder, please feel free to put your questions
00:30:51 --> 00:30:53: in the chat box and we can circle back to
00:30:53 --> 00:30:53: them.
00:30:54 --> 00:30:56: Our last speaker is Cassie.
00:30:56 --> 00:30:57: Take it away, Cassie.
00:30:59 --> 00:30:59: All righty.
00:31:00 --> 00:31:04: Can everybody hear me and see my screen?
00:31:05 --> 00:31:05: Yes, looks great.
00:31:06 --> 00:31:07: Awesome.
00:31:07 --> 00:31:11: OK, well, thank you guys so much for having me
00:31:11 --> 00:31:12: here.
00:31:12 --> 00:31:16: I'm super happy to share what I feel after hearing
00:31:16 --> 00:31:21: both Paul's my, my unique perspective where I have boots
00:31:21 --> 00:31:26: on the ground working with these ordinances and
implementing them
00:31:26 --> 00:31:28: in private in public spaces.
00:31:28 --> 00:31:33: So I've been doing this for since 1997.
00:31:33 --> 00:31:36: And I think as Paul sort of kicked things off,
00:31:37 --> 00:31:39: Paul Landers kicked things off.
00:31:39 --> 00:31:44: There has been a lot of evolution over my my
00:31:44 --> 00:31:48: time doing this and I love how aligned what I'm
00:31:48 --> 00:31:53: sharing today is with what both Paul's have shared.
00:31:54 --> 00:31:56: But at the same time, you know, things are moving
00:31:57 --> 00:31:58: pretty slowly still.
00:31:58 --> 00:32:01: And, and maybe some of the things I have to
00:32:01 --> 00:32:04: share today could, could make us consider, you know, some
00:32:05 --> 00:32:08: of the reasons why things might be loose moving on
00:32:08 --> 00:32:09: that slower side.
00:32:09 --> 00:32:13: And so I'm, I'm excited to hear people's feedback in
00:32:13 --> 00:32:13: that regard.
00:32:14 --> 00:32:18: So I do work with ordinances on the ground and
00:32:18 --> 00:32:22: in California here, I'm based in Los Angeles and we
00:32:23 --> 00:32:27: we do experience having to incorporate a lot of low
00:32:27 --> 00:32:30: impact development through our projects.
00:32:31 --> 00:32:34: Many of those are done by contractors because it's attached
00:32:34 --> 00:32:36: to the permits for the remodels.

00:32:36 --> 00:32:40: And so from a landscaping perspective, when most of our
00:32:41 --> 00:32:46: projects are landscaping only, a lot of landscapers aren't
exposed
00:32:46 --> 00:32:50: to that, even though they are a huge part of
00:32:50 --> 00:32:51: reducing runoff.
00:32:52 --> 00:32:55: We do interact with Muelo.
00:32:55 --> 00:32:58: Sounds like everybody here is more than familiar with that.
00:32:58 --> 00:33:00: So I don't need to spell it out.
00:33:01 --> 00:33:04: I think the thing about the the Muelo is that
00:33:04 --> 00:33:07: couple of different things as as Paul pointed out, there
00:33:08 --> 00:33:09: are square footage triggers.
00:33:10 --> 00:33:14: But again, a lot of landscaping that happens here is,
00:33:14 --> 00:33:17: is on sort of what we call remodels or existing
00:33:17 --> 00:33:20: landscape and a lot of landscape professionals are not
pulling
00:33:21 --> 00:33:23: permits, permits for these things.
00:33:23 --> 00:33:25: They don't require a permit.
00:33:25 --> 00:33:28: They they may re trigger the one of the tracks
00:33:28 --> 00:33:31: for AMUELO, but a lot of these are not going
00:33:31 --> 00:33:35: through any kind of processes for projects that are full
00:33:35 --> 00:33:38: remodels and getting permits or new construction.
00:33:38 --> 00:33:42: Those are going through AMUELO for those that all of
00:33:42 --> 00:33:45: the ones that we put through, I will say from
00:33:45 --> 00:33:49: a process standpoint it it is an intensive process and
00:33:49 --> 00:33:52: the most recent one we put through it was a
00:33:52 --> 00:33:54: \$2000 processing fee.
00:33:54 --> 00:33:59: So that feels, you know, like not not super productive
00:33:59 --> 00:34:03: when when you know, the goals we're going for are
00:34:03 --> 00:34:06: to, you know, are so much bigger.
00:34:06 --> 00:34:12: And when we're putting together this the the paperwork for
00:34:12 --> 00:34:17: the ordinance, you know, in, in California, our title 24
00:34:18 --> 00:34:23: tends to really impact our our green efficiency in our
00:34:23 --> 00:34:24: buildings.
00:34:25 --> 00:34:31: And then we have some aspirational non ordinance things
like
00:34:31 --> 00:34:38: leadership and energy and environmental design for in
neighborhoods, for
00:34:38 --> 00:34:42: neighborhoods and developers and sites.
00:34:42 --> 00:34:45: These are what I would consider not ordinances, but
aspirational,
00:34:46 --> 00:34:49: their accreditations that you can get through the United
States
00:34:49 --> 00:34:51: Green Building Council.

00:34:51 --> 00:34:57: And it's interesting because these these are much, much broader

00:34:57 --> 00:35:02: than a water saving ordinance and start to demonstrate beyond

00:35:02 --> 00:35:05: ordinance landscaping choices.

00:35:05 --> 00:35:09: And when you put together the site's initiative with some

00:35:09 --> 00:35:13: of the lead standards, you can start to check all

00:35:13 --> 00:35:17: of the boxes that I heard Paul, both Paul's alluding

00:35:17 --> 00:35:18: to.

00:35:18 --> 00:35:22: So these ordinances often feel as if they're meant to

00:35:22 --> 00:35:24: create quick, narrow change sometimes.

00:35:25 --> 00:35:26: That's my perception.

00:35:26 --> 00:35:29: And I think they're not imparting the broader messages that

00:35:29 --> 00:35:33: I heard earlier today and they don't certainly address some

00:35:33 --> 00:35:37: of our larger challenges in the face of climate change.

00:35:37 --> 00:35:40: And in that regard, you know, where we may see

00:35:40 --> 00:35:44: some of that happening more is where we see sort

00:35:44 --> 00:35:46: of the clean up efforts.

00:35:47 --> 00:35:51: For example, we have the California Invasive Species Council putting

00:35:51 --> 00:35:54: millions of dollars per year into from their funding to

00:35:54 --> 00:35:59: remove invasives throughout California, which effects our fires, our floods

00:35:59 --> 00:36:00: and our slides.

00:36:01 --> 00:36:07: And in our yard, it's actually water, water use.

00:36:08 --> 00:36:12: We also have the Safe Clean Water Program funding, which

00:36:12 --> 00:36:15: has funded millions of dollars towards all of the larger

00:36:15 --> 00:36:19: picture that both Paul's pointed out earlier.

00:36:19 --> 00:36:26: So, yeah, so I guess I see ordinances, incentives and

00:36:26 --> 00:36:32: policies are just incredibly well intended.

00:36:32 --> 00:36:36: But even with the best intentions, if they're too narrowly

00:36:36 --> 00:36:39: focused, we get some undesirable outcomes.

00:36:40 --> 00:36:44: They tend to solve for emergencies rather than create solutions.

00:36:44 --> 00:36:47: So I some of the photos that I saw earlier

00:36:47 --> 00:36:49: really highlighted that.

00:36:49 --> 00:36:52: But when we are just thinking about saving water, we

00:36:52 --> 00:36:55: end up with gravel scapes and synthetic turf that amplify

00:36:55 --> 00:36:57: heat versus amplifying nature.

00:36:58 --> 00:37:02: When we're just saving water, we plant climate friendly and

00:37:02 --> 00:37:06: we end up using invasives that big box store sell

00:37:06 --> 00:37:10: and again, amplifying our fire danger slides and flooding versus

00:37:10 --> 00:37:15: using native plants and creating defensible space in our yards
00:37:15 --> 00:37:16: and in our environment.
00:37:18 --> 00:37:22: We reduce our permeability when we're only focused on saving
00:37:22 --> 00:37:26: water because frankly, people will RIP out plants, turn the
00:37:26 --> 00:37:29: irrigation off and we end up with more runoff and
00:37:29 --> 00:37:33: pollution versus setting aside open space instead of over paving.
00:37:34 --> 00:37:36: And through that same effort, shutting the water off to
00:37:36 --> 00:37:38: save water, we kill trees.
00:37:38 --> 00:37:42: We lose our natural cooling and shade, our energy savings,
00:37:42 --> 00:37:46: and of course, the hydration that that coolness and shade
00:37:47 --> 00:37:50: provides to our soils and gets every drop of water
00:37:50 --> 00:37:54: out of out of any hydration that we are supplementing
00:37:54 --> 00:37:55: plants.
00:37:56 --> 00:37:59: We we create unhealthy communities.
00:37:59 --> 00:38:04: We lose nature, We create heat and pollution.
00:38:04 --> 00:38:10: And instead of walkable accessible green spaces that, you know,
00:38:10 --> 00:38:14: check more of the boxes so we can see how
00:38:14 --> 00:38:21: the narrowness of the message laid out specifically during I
00:38:21 --> 00:38:26: think, you know, the last five years of drought or
00:38:26 --> 00:38:26: so.
00:38:26 --> 00:38:31: And I'm, I believe that Metropolitan Water District has completely
00:38:31 --> 00:38:34: done a 180 and are doing a great job repairing
00:38:35 --> 00:38:36: and educating.
00:38:36 --> 00:38:40: But they spent millions of dollars incentivizing synthetic turf and
00:38:40 --> 00:38:40: gravel scapes.
00:38:41 --> 00:38:44: They've done an amazing job resetting that.
00:38:44 --> 00:38:47: But we can see the stark difference in the first
00:38:47 --> 00:38:50: round of education and the more broad version they use
00:38:50 --> 00:38:54: now that checks more of the boxes with their rebates
00:38:54 --> 00:38:55: and incentives.
00:38:55 --> 00:38:59: So we really, we really want to build this this
00:38:59 --> 00:39:01: virtuous cycle.
00:39:02 --> 00:39:05: We know that people want to do the right thing.
00:39:06 --> 00:39:10: But does the focus on, you know, ordinances only or
00:39:10 --> 00:39:15: even the phrase water wise versus drought thriving, does it
00:39:15 --> 00:39:19: keep us too narrow in the face of climate change?
00:39:19 --> 00:39:24: And do ordinances inadvertently misdirect or limit how we educate

00:39:24 --> 00:39:28: for the best landscaping choices and outcomes and demonstrating those

00:39:29 --> 00:39:31: choices throughout our cities?

00:39:31 --> 00:39:35: And and that's a question is, are these ordinances being

00:39:35 --> 00:39:38: demonstrated in our cities?

00:39:38 --> 00:39:41: I'm so impressed with some of the work Sonoma's doing

00:39:41 --> 00:39:42: from Paul's demonstration.

00:39:42 --> 00:39:45: I wasn't aware with that of that stuff.

00:39:45 --> 00:39:50: But here in Los Angeles, you know, redundancy really makes

00:39:50 --> 00:39:51: a difference.

00:39:51 --> 00:39:53: And when you drive through LA, the redundancy you see

00:39:54 --> 00:39:56: in your street capes, the scrapes, scapes, excuse me.

00:39:57 --> 00:40:01: Our Parkway is full of grass, not streetscapes that are

00:40:01 --> 00:40:06: collecting runoff and filled with native plants and native trees,

00:40:06 --> 00:40:11: demonstrating storm water infiltration to our communities.

00:40:11 --> 00:40:16: Our schools are continue to be filled with asphalt instead

00:40:16 --> 00:40:17: of oaks.

00:40:18 --> 00:40:22: And we know that children learn better with natural airflow

00:40:23 --> 00:40:27: and nature nearby, and that obviously all of the energy

00:40:27 --> 00:40:32: savings and things that happen in schools would allow them

00:40:32 --> 00:40:35: to be outside in cooler spaces and move more, get

00:40:36 --> 00:40:37: more exercise.

00:40:37 --> 00:40:41: We continue to not have enough park space and a

00:40:41 --> 00:40:46: lot of our park space still has unused grass areas

00:40:46 --> 00:40:51: and non-native plants and this effects our mental health and

00:40:51 --> 00:40:58: Wellness, particularly in communities of color where there's

00:40:58 --> 00:41:02: already less

00:40:58 --> 00:41:02: foliage and trees and hotter spaces to begin with.

00:41:03 --> 00:41:06: And, and, and the last area I really could see

00:41:07 --> 00:41:11: us looking more broadly is in our commercial and industrial

00:41:11 --> 00:41:12: spaces.

00:41:12 --> 00:41:16: When you drive through Los Angeles, it feels so obvious

00:41:16 --> 00:41:19: to me that you could just, you know, put trees

00:41:19 --> 00:41:19: everywhere.

00:41:20 --> 00:41:25: These shopping areas and destination areas in the city

00:41:25 --> 00:41:28: where

00:41:25 --> 00:41:28: people could gather and really economically boost.

00:41:28 --> 00:41:32: Local areas are hot with no trees.

00:41:32 --> 00:41:35: And when we plant trees, we can cool these areas

00:41:35 --> 00:41:38: 20?? and shoppers can stay longer and buy more and

00:41:38 --> 00:41:41: there can be a bigger sense of community and safety.

00:41:42 --> 00:41:46: So our frame and our, and really hence our landscaping

00:41:46 --> 00:41:51: choices can make a different difference between solving for

just
00:41:51 --> 00:41:54: one problem just to create another.
00:41:55 --> 00:41:58: Or we can make choices that I believe can save
00:41:58 --> 00:41:58: the world.
00:41:59 --> 00:42:02: And the reason I do believe they can save the
00:42:02 --> 00:42:05: world is because we are talking about turnkey choices.
00:42:05 --> 00:42:08: These are not just regional applications.
00:42:08 --> 00:42:10: They can be applied everywhere.
00:42:10 --> 00:42:14: And just like Paul Piazza had little edits and adaptations
00:42:14 --> 00:42:17: in every plan because every yard's a little different.
00:42:17 --> 00:42:20: You go to every region and you just switch your
00:42:20 --> 00:42:24: native palette switch, you know the the strategy so that
00:42:24 --> 00:42:27: we can get check as many boxes and broaden our
00:42:27 --> 00:42:29: education and our focus.
00:42:29 --> 00:42:32: So this is my garden.
00:42:32 --> 00:42:36: We had as many of these benefits as we can
00:42:36 --> 00:42:41: for our clients that were able to, but my garden
00:42:41 --> 00:42:44: saves water and so much more.
00:42:44 --> 00:42:46: I'd like just to talk a little bit about the
00:42:46 --> 00:42:47: trees.
00:42:47 --> 00:42:50: For starters on I kept as many mature trees as
00:42:50 --> 00:42:53: I could when I had got my home.
00:42:53 --> 00:42:56: And on the far right, you can see the trunk
00:42:56 --> 00:42:59: of about what was it like a 70 foot eucalyptus
00:42:59 --> 00:43:03: tree that ended up getting sulfur mold and I had
00:43:03 --> 00:43:04: to pull out.
00:43:04 --> 00:43:08: But I've directed deep irrigation to my trees and particularly
00:43:09 --> 00:43:12: in drought, I have made sure that they get deep
00:43:12 --> 00:43:15: water once a month when we have not had the
00:43:15 --> 00:43:17: rain that we need.
00:43:18 --> 00:43:22: And what I've also done, particularly since losing that giant
00:43:22 --> 00:43:26: eucalyptus trees as I've created a succession plan for trees.
00:43:26 --> 00:43:29: And I think that's something that we are missing in
00:43:29 --> 00:43:33: the face of climate changes, plant entry, succession plans in
00:43:33 --> 00:43:34: the city.
00:43:34 --> 00:43:38: I have added a young valley oak, a young Engelmann
00:43:38 --> 00:43:42: oak, an elderberry, multiple toy on trees, so all different
00:43:42 --> 00:43:43: sizes.
00:43:43 --> 00:43:46: And I planted them all around in case I start
00:43:46 --> 00:43:49: to lose trees if there's a fire, things of that
00:43:49 --> 00:43:49: nature.
00:43:50 --> 00:43:53: I mean, obviously I gain a lot of shade and

00:43:54 --> 00:43:59: cooling, natural and passive for this yard I have, except
00:43:59 --> 00:44:03: for my 80 foot long driveway because I live in
00:44:03 --> 00:44:06: a flag lot, everything is permeable.
00:44:07 --> 00:44:11: And what I've done with that driveway because everything
runs
00:44:11 --> 00:44:14: off from both of my neighbors onto my 80 foot
00:44:14 --> 00:44:16: long driveway, down my driveway.
00:44:16 --> 00:44:19: And if I hadn't done anything, it would have run
00:44:19 --> 00:44:21: right into my garage, which you can see on the
00:44:21 --> 00:44:23: far right of this picture.
00:44:23 --> 00:44:26: So we put in a drain, and that drain now
00:44:26 --> 00:44:30: goes into this vernal pool on the back that you
00:44:30 --> 00:44:34: can see my son leaping through that's planted year round
00:44:34 --> 00:44:38: with a native Meadow and some other native grasses and
00:44:38 --> 00:44:42: plants and things that tolerate a lot of water during
00:44:42 --> 00:44:44: those times a year.
00:44:44 --> 00:44:46: And not only is it beautiful, but I feel like
00:44:46 --> 00:44:48: I'm managing more than my own water.
00:44:49 --> 00:44:52: And I do have the property and space to do
00:44:52 --> 00:44:54: it, but it's really cool.
00:44:54 --> 00:44:59: We live in a slightly hillside area, so we do
00:44:59 --> 00:45:04: have to deal with erosion and using native plants with
00:45:04 --> 00:45:09: a deep network of roots and mulch really protects against
00:45:09 --> 00:45:10: that.
00:45:10 --> 00:45:13: It also protects against invasive plants.
00:45:14 --> 00:45:18: Invasive plants come in through, you know, wind and birds.
00:45:18 --> 00:45:22: But I just read an article recently that our big
00:45:22 --> 00:45:26: box stores is still statistically the biggest source of invasive
00:45:26 --> 00:45:30: plants and things like the fountain grass and pampas grass
00:45:30 --> 00:45:32: are fire spreaders.
00:45:32 --> 00:45:34: And we know that from Maui.
00:45:34 --> 00:45:37: We still have that problem here severely in our wild
00:45:37 --> 00:45:39: spaces in California.
00:45:40 --> 00:45:42: And so when we are trying to check all the
00:45:42 --> 00:45:44: boxes here, we also have a zone 0, which you
00:45:44 --> 00:45:46: can't see from this photo.
00:45:46 --> 00:45:49: But a zone 0 is the 1st 5 foot around
00:45:49 --> 00:45:50: your structure.
00:45:51 --> 00:45:53: Your structure is the most vulnerable thing when you're in
00:45:53 --> 00:45:54: a severe wildfire area.
00:45:55 --> 00:45:58: And that 5 foot area is a buffer so that
00:45:58 --> 00:46:01: embers that fly in on the wind don't find places

00:46:02 --> 00:46:05: to collect fuel and ignite and burn your home down.
00:46:06 --> 00:46:09: And so when you think about, you know, maybe this
00:46:09 --> 00:46:12: year you think about earthquakes, maybe we've had some
fun
00:46:12 --> 00:46:13: things happen.
00:46:13 --> 00:46:17: But when we're lands making landscaping choices like what
we're
00:46:17 --> 00:46:21: describing today, we our biggest threat from hurricanes is
flooding
00:46:22 --> 00:46:25: and our biggest threat from earthquakes is fire.
00:46:25 --> 00:46:28: And we're making choices that start to defend against the
00:46:28 --> 00:46:32: outcomes or could make us more resilient against both of
00:46:32 --> 00:46:32: those.
00:46:33 --> 00:46:38: So we're really trying to think in a full cycle.
00:46:40 --> 00:46:43: And our company, as I mentioned, is a design, build
00:46:44 --> 00:46:45: and maintenance company.
00:46:45 --> 00:46:48: But we actually don't start with design, we start with
00:46:48 --> 00:46:48: maintenance.
00:46:49 --> 00:46:53: We start with maintenance because we can't design anything
until
00:46:53 --> 00:46:56: we fully understand how is it going to get maintained.
00:46:56 --> 00:46:57: Is it homeowner?
00:46:57 --> 00:46:58: Is it a gardener?
00:46:58 --> 00:47:01: Is it a gardener that has had the proper training?
00:47:02 --> 00:47:06: Is it going to be weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually?
00:47:06 --> 00:47:09: All of these things matter so much and how we
00:47:09 --> 00:47:10: are approaching this cycle.
00:47:11 --> 00:47:14: Then once we understand the maintenance, we can move
into
00:47:14 --> 00:47:17: the design and create strategies that work for the real
00:47:17 --> 00:47:19: realities of that maintenance.
00:47:20 --> 00:47:24: One of the biggest things I think that differentiate us
00:47:24 --> 00:47:29: from a design, I guess strategy is that we've seen
00:47:29 --> 00:47:34: projects where plants are planted very large and space very
00:47:34 --> 00:47:35: close together.
00:47:36 --> 00:47:39: We know for so many reasons, Number one, it uses
00:47:39 --> 00:47:42: more water to get a larger plant established.
00:47:42 --> 00:47:45: When they're crowd, when plants are crowded, it's a waste
00:47:45 --> 00:47:46: of water.
00:47:47 --> 00:47:50: Often times things can't be hydrozone because there's too
many
00:47:50 --> 00:47:53: of the different plants in the alike zone.
00:47:54 --> 00:47:56: And so one of the things we're doing is we
00:47:56 --> 00:48:01: are educating people, you know, whether it's residential or

commercial

00:48:01 --> 00:48:04: or public spaces that but we are planning for three
00:48:04 --> 00:48:05: to five years out and beyond.
00:48:06 --> 00:48:11: So planting 1 gallon plants so that there is plenty
00:48:11 --> 00:48:15: of space for these plants to grow to use that
00:48:15 --> 00:48:16: water efficiently.
00:48:17 --> 00:48:21: We don't have root competition, health problems and in
wildfire
00:48:21 --> 00:48:24: areas we have the kind of spacing and hierarchy that
00:48:24 --> 00:48:27: we need to have to maintain ember blockers in our
00:48:27 --> 00:48:28: defensible space.
00:48:29 --> 00:48:32: We're an in house build company and so we templatize
00:48:32 --> 00:48:34: a lot of the way we do these things so
00:48:34 --> 00:48:37: that we can get the most out of all of
00:48:37 --> 00:48:38: these strategies.
00:48:39 --> 00:48:42: And again, we end with maintenance.
00:48:42 --> 00:48:46: It is the number one thing that makes these survive
00:48:46 --> 00:48:50: and helps our design come to fruition.
00:48:50 --> 00:48:53: And it is the beauty and the aesthetic at the
00:48:53 --> 00:48:56: end of the day that makes these things desirable.
00:48:56 --> 00:49:00: So if our city can show how beautiful this can
00:49:00 --> 00:49:04: be, like some of the photos we've seen today, we
00:49:04 --> 00:49:08: can check all the boxes and get this upward spiral
00:49:08 --> 00:49:10: that everybody here certainly wants.
00:49:13 --> 00:49:16: Are we making clients sacrifice?
00:49:17 --> 00:49:19: Even though what we have found is that people are
00:49:19 --> 00:49:22: totally willing to sacrifice, and we've seen that when they
00:49:22 --> 00:49:24: just put in huge gravel scape, synthetic turf.
00:49:24 --> 00:49:28: But no, people aren't sacrificing.
00:49:28 --> 00:49:32: They're learning how to create nature corridors, save nature,
create
00:49:32 --> 00:49:35: habitats throughout their neighborhood.
00:49:35 --> 00:49:37: This client is a client.
00:49:37 --> 00:49:41: If anyone's driven through Hancock Park and you can see
00:49:41 --> 00:49:45: right behind him, Hancock Park is a row of just
00:49:45 --> 00:49:49: monolithic wands, yard after yard after yard.
00:49:49 --> 00:49:52: Well, this guy decided he was came in very educated,
00:49:52 --> 00:49:55: very interested in lead to begin with.
00:49:55 --> 00:49:59: He was remodeling his historic home and wanted to bring
00:49:59 --> 00:50:01: all of these landscape qualities.
00:50:02 --> 00:50:04: So he has a permeable driveway.
00:50:04 --> 00:50:08: Everything runs off either into rain barrels or into storm
00:50:08 --> 00:50:10: water infiltration.

00:50:11 --> 00:50:14: It's 80% native, 20% edible.

00:50:14 --> 00:50:17: He's got his edible garden up front so he can

00:50:17 --> 00:50:19: share with the neighbors.

00:50:19 --> 00:50:22: You can see his Parkway is a native Zedge lawn.

00:50:22 --> 00:50:25: The backyard where the kids play is native Zedge.

00:50:25 --> 00:50:28: There's also native privacy hedge.

00:50:29 --> 00:50:30: So he's feeling pretty proud.

00:50:30 --> 00:50:34: And unfortunately, I think I started this thing out saying

00:50:34 --> 00:50:37: things are moving a bit slow considering how much things

00:50:37 --> 00:50:38: are changing.

00:50:38 --> 00:50:40: But Hancock Park still looks like this.

00:50:40 --> 00:50:43: And you know, we do tours, we do marketing, we

00:50:44 --> 00:50:48: do what we can, but it's, it's possible more strategies

00:50:48 --> 00:50:48: are needed.

00:50:49 --> 00:50:52: And I think again, going back to public spaces and

00:50:53 --> 00:50:56: community, the more we can see these spaces in our

00:50:56 --> 00:51:01: community, the more it demonstrates that it's beyond

ordinances.

00:51:01 --> 00:51:03: This is just how we do things.

00:51:03 --> 00:51:05: So this is the city of Sierra Madre.

00:51:06 --> 00:51:09: They have a contiguous garden space throughout their City

Hall,

00:51:09 --> 00:51:12: their fire department and their Police Department.

00:51:12 --> 00:51:16: And we did these giant demonstration gardens that really

show

00:51:16 --> 00:51:21: a bunch of different things with interpretive signage,

permeable walkways.

00:51:21 --> 00:51:26: And the whole frontage along all three buildings has a

00:51:26 --> 00:51:31: number of lawn alternatives from ones that are walkable like

00:51:31 --> 00:51:36: the Carrick's native Zedge Meadows to Yarrow meadows, to

red

00:51:36 --> 00:51:40: fescue meadows to Coyote Bush meadows.

00:51:40 --> 00:51:42: So people get an understanding of, you know, how green

00:51:43 --> 00:51:45: these things can be year round and, and whether you

00:51:45 --> 00:51:48: can play on them, whether whether you can't or not.

00:51:49 --> 00:51:53: We have our here locally in our Angeles forest.

00:51:53 --> 00:51:57: Our National Forest here is the home of the Tongva.

00:51:57 --> 00:52:01: So we have a lot of examples in this garden

00:52:01 --> 00:52:07: of medicinal natives, edible natives like Catalina cherry, the

manzanitas,

00:52:07 --> 00:52:10: the Berberis, and obviously white sages.

00:52:10 --> 00:52:13: You can see a lot of fun things that really

00:52:13 --> 00:52:17: help people connect with the land and recall what this

00:52:17 --> 00:52:21: is all about and what's how long these materials have
00:52:21 --> 00:52:22: been here.
00:52:22 --> 00:52:25: And there's a reason because they've adapted here for
millions
00:52:25 --> 00:52:28: of years and have gone through all the different roller
00:52:28 --> 00:52:29: coasters of drought and deluge.
00:52:30 --> 00:52:32: But the most important part, and we also have a
00:52:33 --> 00:52:35: fire demonstration garden as part of the fire department.
00:52:35 --> 00:52:39: I think the most important part of this project is
00:52:39 --> 00:52:42: that this did not this, this was involved the community
00:52:42 --> 00:52:45: from the get go part of they were part of
00:52:45 --> 00:52:49: the visioning for this and they went through this visioning
00:52:49 --> 00:52:52: with us and also work in the garden getting their
00:52:52 --> 00:52:54: hands dirty with us.
00:52:54 --> 00:52:57: And there are kids today that were in elementary school
00:52:57 --> 00:53:00: that remember exactly which plant they planted.
00:53:00 --> 00:53:01: They're in high school now.
00:53:01 --> 00:53:04: They walk by and they look at their plant, they
00:53:04 --> 00:53:05: see how it's grown.
00:53:05 --> 00:53:08: It's a very walkable accessible space that's through the main
00:53:08 --> 00:53:11: drag of Sierra Madre where there's some shops and
restaurants.
00:53:11 --> 00:53:15: So highly visible, it's the main drag to drive onto.
00:53:15 --> 00:53:19: So these demonstration gardens are critical and have done a
00:53:19 --> 00:53:23: lot for this community, which is also in a severe
00:53:23 --> 00:53:24: wildfire area.
00:53:24 --> 00:53:28: So what's been helpful is to really broaden our focus
00:53:28 --> 00:53:33: and really encourage landscapes that are sinking water back
into
00:53:33 --> 00:53:37: the ground table, not just saving water started off with
00:53:37 --> 00:53:38: trees.
00:53:38 --> 00:53:41: We we really want to prioritize our trees.
00:53:41 --> 00:53:43: One thing there are some Realtors on this call.
00:53:43 --> 00:53:46: I'm sure you know that landscapes appreciate over time.
00:53:46 --> 00:53:49: So if we're ripping them out in three to five
00:53:49 --> 00:53:53: years, we're wasting water, first of all, and we're not
00:53:53 --> 00:53:57: getting the value of appreciating that landscape and, and
that,
00:53:57 --> 00:54:00: you know, real beautiful, you know, picture.
00:54:00 --> 00:54:01: We want when we sell that.
00:54:01 --> 00:54:05: So we want to preserve our habitats and make the
00:54:05 --> 00:54:09: city a nature corridor and not just healthy for humans,
00:54:09 --> 00:54:13: but healthy for everything that supports us in this world.

00:54:14 --> 00:54:18: We we want to look beyond foliage and the impacts
00:54:18 --> 00:54:21: on our built environment and so we need to set
00:54:21 --> 00:54:26: aside space and particularly with developers, we need to set
00:54:26 --> 00:54:28: aside space for foliage.
00:54:28 --> 00:54:31: Instead of building all the way out to the setbacks,
00:54:31 --> 00:54:34: we need to make space for trees and and greenery.
00:54:35 --> 00:54:39: This was hit on early educating landscapers.
00:54:39 --> 00:54:41: I would love to see that maintenance manual.
00:54:41 --> 00:54:42: That was so neat.
00:54:43 --> 00:54:47: The California Native Plant Society in partnership with the
Theodore
00:54:47 --> 00:54:52: Payne Foundation created a landscape certification class
here in Los
00:54:52 --> 00:54:56: Angeles and it's multilingual and they are teaching gardeners
how
00:54:56 --> 00:54:58: to garden with natives.
00:54:58 --> 00:55:01: And no longer relying on just the hedger and the
00:55:01 --> 00:55:04: blower, they are actually pulling out the pruners and doing
00:55:04 --> 00:55:08: seasonal that are making the most of their time in
00:55:08 --> 00:55:08: the garden.
00:55:10 --> 00:55:14: And, and we're helping people not just do it all
00:55:14 --> 00:55:15: at once.
00:55:15 --> 00:55:18: When it comes to creating a zone 0 or a
00:55:18 --> 00:55:22: defensible landscape or even an adapted landscape to, to be
00:55:22 --> 00:55:25: more resilient, these things can take time.
00:55:25 --> 00:55:26: It can't all be at once.
00:55:27 --> 00:55:32: Maybe it's simply retrofitting a system from overhead to drip.
00:55:32 --> 00:55:37: Maybe it's pulling out a lawn and and switching it
00:55:37 --> 00:55:39: to natives or a a native Meadow.
00:55:40 --> 00:55:45: Maybe it's turning those intensively energy intensive annuals
into some
00:55:45 --> 00:55:46: native perennials.
00:55:47 --> 00:55:51: Maybe it's a one for one exchange for from hydrangeas
00:55:51 --> 00:55:54: to carbon Bush anatomies or something.
00:55:54 --> 00:55:58: So we're helping people through our maintenance division
make these
00:55:58 --> 00:56:00: changes and calibrate over time.
00:56:01 --> 00:56:06: And and that's so that's pretty much all I have.
00:56:07 --> 00:56:09: I really appreciate having a chance to share.
00:56:09 --> 00:56:10: So thank you so much.
00:56:15 --> 00:56:16: Thank you so much, Cassie.
00:56:16 --> 00:56:17: I love seeing your garden.
00:56:18 --> 00:56:22: I'd love to open it up to questions for Cassie

00:56:22 --> 00:56:24: and we could make it AQ and A for the
00:56:24 --> 00:56:25: entire panel.
00:56:25 --> 00:56:26: Honestly.
00:56:27 --> 00:56:28: Mike, I know you had a question.
00:56:28 --> 00:56:29: Do you want to unmute?
00:56:36 --> 00:56:37: Mike, I can't hear you.
00:56:41 --> 00:56:45: Mike's question for the group was what would you advise
00:56:45 --> 00:56:48: for areas where wildfire risk is low, yet does still
00:56:48 --> 00:56:52: exist and wildfire mitigation is not on people's minds?
00:56:58 --> 00:57:00: I'm happy to jump in on that.
00:57:00 --> 00:57:03: I am by no means a fire expert, but what
00:57:03 --> 00:57:06: I can say and what was brought up in the
00:57:06 --> 00:57:10: separate question about the templates that you got a look
00:57:10 --> 00:57:14: at was that fire safer landscaping designs doesn't mean that
00:57:14 --> 00:57:17: the landscaping is barren and unattractive in large part.
00:57:17 --> 00:57:22: Depending on the wildfire threat to where you live, it
00:57:22 --> 00:57:27: may simply be, you know, choosing plants that are adapted
00:57:27 --> 00:57:31: better to fire, making sure that the space adjacent to
00:57:31 --> 00:57:35: your buildings is kept sort of lean and clean.
00:57:35 --> 00:57:38: Plant material is, you know, 3 feet or less and
00:57:38 --> 00:57:38: height.
00:57:40 --> 00:57:45: Any leaf litter and other types of materials that can
00:57:45 --> 00:57:50: create a flammable start are kept picked up at appropriate
00:57:50 --> 00:57:53: times during maintenance and the like.
00:57:53 --> 00:57:56: So I I don't think that there is any place
00:57:56 --> 00:58:00: in the United States that couldn't incorporate some of these
00:58:00 --> 00:58:04: concepts to the benefit because as we all know, with
00:58:04 --> 00:58:09: climate change, no one would have expected the
neighborhoods that
00:58:09 --> 00:58:12: burned in the 2017 tubs fire to burn until they
00:58:12 --> 00:58:12: did.
00:58:13 --> 00:58:16: And we've heard a lot of the discussion amongst our
00:58:16 --> 00:58:18: fire officials about the new normal.
00:58:18 --> 00:58:21: And I would say being proactive in the communities that
00:58:21 --> 00:58:25: you're currently finding yourself is not a bad approach, right?
00:58:26 --> 00:58:26: Hey, Paul.
00:58:27 --> 00:58:27: Can I?
00:58:27 --> 00:58:28: Oh, go ahead, Paul.
00:58:28 --> 00:58:30: I was going to follow up on that question.
00:58:31 --> 00:58:33: We were on another call with another native grass group
00:58:33 --> 00:58:33: the other day.
00:58:33 --> 00:58:37: And Paul, I'm wondering particularly since you're rebuilding

from fire

00:58:37 --> 00:58:40: as here in Colorado we had the Marshall fire, same

00:58:40 --> 00:58:42: thing, an urban grass fed fire.

00:58:42 --> 00:58:43: The people were not kind of expecting.

00:58:44 --> 00:58:46: The concern has come up as rebuild and I don't

00:58:46 --> 00:58:49: know if you've experienced this, Paul, concerned by the insurance

00:58:49 --> 00:58:50: industry.

00:58:50 --> 00:58:53: Are we doing an app or do they have their

00:58:53 --> 00:58:56: own criteria for what they consider fire safe or not?

00:58:56 --> 00:58:59: Because people were talking about, you mentioned, you know, heights

00:58:59 --> 00:59:02: of grasses, even grasses themselves, the plant materials and I

00:59:02 --> 00:59:04: don't know if you've had any reaction.

00:59:04 --> 00:59:06: I guess the concern for a lot of us on

00:59:06 --> 00:59:08: this call is the insurance industry might come through with

00:59:08 --> 00:59:11: a template that looks pretty hard to meet other than,

00:59:11 --> 00:59:12: like you said, kind of barren.

00:59:14 --> 00:59:18: Yeah, we have been hearing from folks that are getting

00:59:18 --> 00:59:23: letters from insurance companies that are, are looking to re

00:59:23 --> 00:59:29: up their policies that they're dictating specific requirements for landscapes.

00:59:31 --> 00:59:34: You know, I, I can't say specifically because I haven't

00:59:34 --> 00:59:37: seen what those companies are putting forward and I suspect

00:59:37 --> 00:59:40: they vary depending on the company to company.

00:59:40 --> 00:59:44: But in our work we did work with our local

00:59:44 --> 00:59:48: fire officials to vet these designs.

00:59:48 --> 00:59:52: We also interact with some of the experts that research,

00:59:53 --> 00:59:56: you know, fires in terms of how they affect homes

00:59:56 --> 01:00:00: and you know those types of workshops that we've put

01:00:00 --> 01:00:05: on locally, those people are professionals that form the insurance

01:00:05 --> 01:00:06: industry.

01:00:06 --> 01:00:08: So I think we are starting to see some of

01:00:08 --> 01:00:10: that incorporated in policy.

01:00:10 --> 01:00:13: Through insurance and to the best of our ability, we've

01:00:14 --> 01:00:17: tried to, you know, incorporate that in the templates and

01:00:17 --> 01:00:20: in the discussion we've had with our constituents.

01:00:20 --> 01:00:21: Great.

01:00:21 --> 01:00:21: Thank you.

01:00:22 --> 01:00:24: Yeah, I'd love to add to that.

01:00:25 --> 01:00:30: Number one, I, I have a lot of backgrounds in
01:00:30 --> 01:00:33: defensive landscaping as well.
01:00:33 --> 01:00:35: In fact, I'm kind of don't look at it now,
01:00:35 --> 01:00:36: but I'll post a little link.
01:00:37 --> 01:00:41: And I think one of the favorite, my favorite parts
01:00:41 --> 01:00:45: of this link is that IBHS, which is the insurance
01:00:45 --> 01:00:50: group are showing the difference between invasive grasses
burning and
01:00:51 --> 01:00:56: and being combustible versus the slow and lack of
combustibility
01:00:56 --> 01:00:57: of a native plant.
01:00:58 --> 01:01:00: But I think one of the big problems and mistakes
01:01:01 --> 01:01:03: that we make is we focus on plant material when
01:01:03 --> 01:01:07: it comes to fire instead of the structure, the most
01:01:07 --> 01:01:10: vulnerable thing on anyone's property and, and someone
showed a
01:01:10 --> 01:01:13: picture of it today, but it's your home.
01:01:13 --> 01:01:18: No one cries when a plant burns, but everybody's life
01:01:18 --> 01:01:22: is absolutely affected when a home or a person is
01:01:22 --> 01:01:24: injured or home is burned.
01:01:24 --> 01:01:29: And so we have been study and really redirecting the
01:01:29 --> 01:01:35: conversation away from vegetation and reminding people
that it is
01:01:35 --> 01:01:35: home.
01:01:36 --> 01:01:40: First, your home is the most vulnerable a thing in
01:01:40 --> 01:01:40: a fire.
01:01:41 --> 01:01:44: And, and again, the reason that this is so important
01:01:44 --> 01:01:47: is because and, and for the question that the person
01:01:47 --> 01:01:52: who originally asked when you're outside of the wildfire
severity
01:01:52 --> 01:01:55: zone is because embers are flying in from miles and
01:01:55 --> 01:01:56: miles away.
01:01:57 --> 01:02:01: The 95% of fires, at least in our in California
01:02:01 --> 01:02:02: are ember driven.
01:02:03 --> 01:02:06: And that's why this zone, your home is #1 one,
01:02:06 --> 01:02:10: anything that that connects with your home that's
combustible.
01:02:10 --> 01:02:15: And then that 5 foot zone, 0 ember free zone.
01:02:15 --> 01:02:16: And I will leave it there.
01:02:16 --> 01:02:18: I could go on to, you know, all of the
01:02:18 --> 01:02:20: hierarchy beyond that.
01:02:20 --> 01:02:22: But again, if you take the focus back over to
01:02:22 --> 01:02:25: your home, that is the thing that everybody wants to

01:02:26 --> 01:02:26: save.

01:02:27 --> 01:02:30: And then we can use our landscaping to bolster the

01:02:30 --> 01:02:31: defenses further.

01:02:34 --> 01:02:35: Going Cassie.

01:02:36 --> 01:02:36: Thanks everyone.

01:02:37 --> 01:02:40: I want to make one more point on that is

01:02:40 --> 01:02:41: that these things run downstream.

01:02:41 --> 01:02:44: And so even if you're outside of a severity zone

01:02:44 --> 01:02:47: or an amber zone, all of the runoff pollution, air

01:02:47 --> 01:02:51: and everything effects neighborhoods and typically those are in the

01:02:51 --> 01:02:54: flatlands and and more vulnerable areas.

01:02:54 --> 01:02:55: So it all matters.

01:02:57 --> 01:02:57: Good points.

01:02:59 --> 01:03:00: Waverly, you had a question.

01:03:00 --> 01:03:00: Do you want to unmute?

01:03:00 --> 01:03:01: Go ahead.

01:03:02 --> 01:03:02: Sure.

01:03:02 --> 01:03:02: Great.

01:03:03 --> 01:03:06: Thank you so much to all the panelists for this

01:03:06 --> 01:03:08: pretty inspiring presentation.

01:03:08 --> 01:03:11: I love to see the designs and the the native

01:03:11 --> 01:03:15: plants and think about all these kind of multi beneficial

01:03:15 --> 01:03:15: uses.

01:03:15 --> 01:03:18: So thank you for that from a coming from a

01:03:18 --> 01:03:22: planner and thinking about kind of the regulatory approaches to

01:03:22 --> 01:03:25: how we can ensure that these are the types of

01:03:25 --> 01:03:29: landscapes that we're seeing on new development moving forward.

01:03:31 --> 01:03:33: And recognizing that that all of you have done some

01:03:33 --> 01:03:35: research and work in California.

01:03:35 --> 01:03:39: I'm just very curious if you have any thoughts on

01:03:39 --> 01:03:44: kind of the regulatory side about how planners working in

01:03:44 --> 01:03:50: local governments in California can either improve their

01:03:50 --> 01:03:54: Mwello landscaping

01:03:50 --> 01:03:54: policies or kind of go even beyond some of the,

01:03:54 --> 01:03:58: the, the state required elements to see more of the

01:03:58 --> 01:04:03: types of landscapes that we're that we're looking for.

01:04:04 --> 01:04:07: And if you have any more examples, I know you

01:04:07 --> 01:04:11: highlighted some of communities that are really paving the way

01:04:11 --> 01:04:12: on the land use code side.

01:04:13 --> 01:04:14: I'd love to hear them as well.

01:04:18 --> 01:04:23: Well, I have my perspective, which is that even the

01:04:23 --> 01:04:29: water efficient landscape ordinance in California, which has been around

01:04:29 --> 01:04:33: in a variety of forms for probably over 25 years

01:04:33 --> 01:04:38: isn't being implemented effectively on a wide scale basis.

01:04:38 --> 01:04:42: Meaning they just opened a new public rule making process

01:04:42 --> 01:04:48: in California to update the water efficient landscape ordinance specifically

01:04:48 --> 01:04:53: because they're not getting a large percentage of local agencies

01:04:53 --> 01:04:58: even meeting their annual reporting requirements to the Department of

01:04:58 --> 01:04:59: Water Resources.

01:04:59 --> 01:05:04: Or about how many of these development projects have undergone

01:05:04 --> 01:05:07: the requirements successfully.

01:05:07 --> 01:05:12: So that recognizes staffing challenges and a lot of small

01:05:12 --> 01:05:16: agencies that are already challenged to keep up with work.

01:05:18 --> 01:05:21: And so I would say it's sort of baby steps

01:05:21 --> 01:05:24: and there is a lot of good included in the

01:05:25 --> 01:05:26: ordinance currently.

01:05:27 --> 01:05:34: It's differentiated between shells and May when it comes down

01:05:34 --> 01:05:36: to actual language.

01:05:37 --> 01:05:42: And so my experience has been most public agencies are

01:05:42 --> 01:05:47: really kind of just adhering to what languages must be

01:05:47 --> 01:05:53: required in the ordinance versus more of the far reaching,

01:05:53 --> 01:05:58: you know, forward thinking additional requirements.

01:05:58 --> 01:06:00: There's having a hard time keeping up.

01:06:00 --> 01:06:03: So I don't have a good example of someone who's

01:06:03 --> 01:06:06: going beyond the current wheelow requirements.

01:06:09 --> 01:06:10: Thank you so much, Paul.

01:06:12 --> 01:06:15: And I would just add you can't toot your own

01:06:15 --> 01:06:16: whore and Waverly.

01:06:16 --> 01:06:18: But I think you know, the fact that you've all

01:06:18 --> 01:06:20: lived at California, I would say because the water agencies,

01:06:21 --> 01:06:23: when I was talking to Cassie before, sometimes the water

01:06:23 --> 01:06:26: agencies in the planning departments, as you know, don't talk

01:06:26 --> 01:06:28: to each other and they have very different.

01:06:28 --> 01:06:30: The state comes down with Marlow, but you had waters

01:06:30 --> 01:06:32: local, those kinds of things.

01:06:32 --> 01:06:35: So like all these things, much more conversation and

collaboratory

01:06:35 --> 01:06:38: discussion would really be helpful and someone else to advocate

01:06:38 --> 01:06:42: for this multi benefit besides just the water agencies because

01:06:42 --> 01:06:45: you know, they're getting their benefits theoretically with the water

01:06:45 --> 01:06:46: savings.

01:06:46 --> 01:06:48: But as we know, there's a host of other kind

01:06:48 --> 01:06:50: of benefits, and we need some others to kind of

01:06:50 --> 01:06:51: advocate for that larger view.

01:06:53 --> 01:06:53: Great.

01:06:54 --> 01:06:54: Thanks, Paul.

01:06:54 --> 01:06:54: Great.

01:06:57 --> 01:06:58: Well.

01:06:59 --> 01:06:59: Paul, do you have something else?

01:07:00 --> 01:07:03: Well, I was going to say, if there's anything that

01:07:03 --> 01:07:06: could help drive this forward, it's, you know, regional collaborations

01:07:07 --> 01:07:11: between stacked functions, which is something Paul Lander mentioned earlier.

01:07:11 --> 01:07:15: And that, you know, we do collaborate with our stormwater

01:07:15 --> 01:07:20: folks, specifically around the Russian River Watershed Association, which was

01:07:20 --> 01:07:26: formed to implement watershed wide stormwater and water quality initiatives,

01:07:26 --> 01:07:30: but recognizes that there's a lot of crossover between their

01:07:30 --> 01:07:33: work and what we do in the water use efficiency

01:07:33 --> 01:07:34: sector.

01:07:35 --> 01:07:37: So we do partner with them and we do a

01:07:37 --> 01:07:40: lot of partnering with local NGOs that are focused on

01:07:40 --> 01:07:42: climate change initiatives.

01:07:42 --> 01:07:46: And we do, you know, go in on grant funding

01:07:46 --> 01:07:48: collaboratively as well.

01:07:48 --> 01:07:51: So any if you're looking to stretch the envelope, it's

01:07:51 --> 01:07:53: going to take, you know, time and money.

01:07:53 --> 01:07:57: And so you're going to need to kind of connect

01:07:57 --> 01:08:01: people together and and bring your collective benefits to make

01:08:01 --> 01:08:02: this happen regionally.

01:08:04 --> 01:08:05: That's great.

01:08:05 --> 01:08:07: And I'll just say I'll probably be in touch with

01:08:07 --> 01:08:09: all of you offline if that's all right.

01:08:09 --> 01:08:13: But our we've had a growing water smart workshop in

01:08:13 --> 01:08:17: Southern California in June and we have two communities

that

01:08:18 --> 01:08:22: are moving forward, one on updating their procedures and their

01:08:22 --> 01:08:27: guidance materials on their Muelo and also another community looking

01:08:27 --> 01:08:32: at templates just like you talked about Paul, that you

01:08:32 --> 01:08:35: have in Sonoma for landscape transformation.

01:08:35 --> 01:08:36: So thanks again everyone.

01:08:36 --> 01:08:36: Great.

01:08:39 --> 01:08:40: Questions.

01:08:41 --> 01:08:44: I'd love to open it up for a group discussion

01:08:44 --> 01:08:47: on how the coalition can support all of this work.

01:08:48 --> 01:08:51: I know there's so many different resources out there on

01:08:51 --> 01:08:53: landscapes and I'm wondering if maybe we could have a

01:08:53 --> 01:08:56: shared document where we just sort of list resources or

01:08:56 --> 01:08:59: maybe there's somebody already doing this and we can share

01:08:59 --> 01:09:01: that existing resource.

01:09:01 --> 01:09:04: I'm hoping people can just sort of unmute and just

01:09:04 --> 01:09:05: talk about what are the needs.

01:09:05 --> 01:09:08: And I actually might pitch it over to Darren at

01:09:08 --> 01:09:12: Northern Water because I know they're working on templates and

01:09:12 --> 01:09:15: maybe they've gathered some resources already.

01:09:21 --> 01:09:21: Darren, I'm seeing you.

01:09:21 --> 01:09:22: Hey.

01:09:23 --> 01:09:23: Sorry about that.

01:09:24 --> 01:09:25: So I'm trying to figure out how to turn on

01:09:25 --> 01:09:26: my screen again.

01:09:27 --> 01:09:29: Yeah, So we are working on templates.

01:09:29 --> 01:09:32: In fact, I believe that they are complete and we

01:09:32 --> 01:09:36: are, I think launching them on Monday, actually, I think

01:09:36 --> 01:09:40: is the kind of the big reveal party in Louisville.

01:09:40 --> 01:09:41: I think the Louisville Rec Center.

01:09:41 --> 01:09:43: And, and I'm sorry that I'm I'm the only one

01:09:43 --> 01:09:45: that's on this call from Northern Water, but I'm also

01:09:45 --> 01:09:48: on on our team, probably the least knowledgeable of the

01:09:48 --> 01:09:49: the project.

01:09:49 --> 01:09:52: So, but I, but what I can say, you know,

01:09:52 --> 01:09:55: thank you to, to Paul Piazza for, for your, your

01:09:55 --> 01:10:01: presentation because that your landscape templates were very instrumental in

01:10:01 --> 01:10:06: really designing and developing our sustainable landscape

templates in there.

01:10:06 --> 01:10:09: But I think we, we came up with, I think

01:10:09 --> 01:10:13: 5 or 6 different templates that are specifically F4 superior

01:10:13 --> 01:10:18: in Lewisville and Boulder County residents that that were unfortunate,

01:10:18 --> 01:10:21: yeah, victims of the, the, the Marshall Fire.

01:10:22 --> 01:10:23: And there's yeah.

01:10:23 --> 01:10:27: So there's a lot of fire wise elements to it

01:10:27 --> 01:10:32: as well as obviously, you know, water wise too.

01:10:32 --> 01:10:35: So more, I think more will come out I think

01:10:35 --> 01:10:39: shortly and we will be hosting all of those designs,

01:10:39 --> 01:10:43: maybe not quite to the extent that I know Sonoma

01:10:43 --> 01:10:44: Marin does.

01:10:44 --> 01:10:47: I've been on that, that tool so many times and

01:10:47 --> 01:10:49: I've just been always in awe of that.

01:10:50 --> 01:10:52: But yeah, but we will be, I think promoting our

01:10:53 --> 01:10:57: our sustainable landscape templates here within the next couple of

01:10:57 --> 01:10:57: weeks.

01:10:58 --> 01:10:59: That's exciting.

01:10:59 --> 01:11:00: Darren, go ahead.

01:11:01 --> 01:11:02: I was just going to say I would only echo

01:11:02 --> 01:11:03: Darren's comment.

01:11:03 --> 01:11:05: And you know what Paul said before and Cassie's alluded

01:11:05 --> 01:11:08: to one of the things we still struggle with this

01:11:08 --> 01:11:11: capacity within the local government to even check these templates.

01:11:11 --> 01:11:12: You know, we've done all this stuff to kind of

01:11:12 --> 01:11:14: make it forward, but we have staff that either aren't

01:11:14 --> 01:11:16: trained or those kinds of things.

01:11:16 --> 01:11:18: So again, more training for that.

01:11:18 --> 01:11:21: And again, I'm back to whatever your vehicle is, not

01:11:21 --> 01:11:23: to make this political, but I think we really have

01:11:23 --> 01:11:26: to impress upon those putting millions of dollars in the

01:11:26 --> 01:11:29: turf conversion that we need money for this training to

01:11:29 --> 01:11:32: understand these templates and to help planners understand and move

01:11:32 --> 01:11:32: that cause.

01:11:32 --> 01:11:35: Again, it is a system and we're doing a good

01:11:35 --> 01:11:37: job of addressing kind of pieces of it.

01:11:37 --> 01:11:39: But as Cassie did a great job articulating, if you

01:11:39 --> 01:11:41: only look at a piece, that's not the end of

01:11:41 --> 01:11:43: the job and yet people are overwhelmed.

01:11:43 --> 01:11:45: So I think we have to find ways where we
01:11:45 --> 01:11:48: can try to educate and make resources available to people
01:11:48 --> 01:11:49: all the way along the chain.
01:11:52 --> 01:11:53: I agree.
01:11:53 --> 01:11:57: Darren, could you put any information about that launch in
01:11:57 --> 01:11:59: the chat box for that's in my that's in my
01:11:59 --> 01:12:02: vicinity, so I might want to attend.
01:12:02 --> 01:12:03: Yeah, totally.
01:12:03 --> 01:12:05: I I let me find those details.
01:12:05 --> 01:12:08: I might have to ping one of my teammates to
01:12:08 --> 01:12:10: find more information on that, but I will if I
01:12:10 --> 01:12:13: can't find it and put it in the chat before
01:12:13 --> 01:12:13: we wrap up.
01:12:13 --> 01:12:15: I will at least e-mail it to you and then
01:12:15 --> 01:12:16: maybe you can share it with the then.
01:12:16 --> 01:12:17: I can share it.
01:12:17 --> 01:12:18: Yes, that's perfect.
01:12:18 --> 01:12:18: Great.
01:12:19 --> 01:12:20: Austin, I saw you on mute.
01:12:20 --> 01:12:20: Go ahead.
01:12:21 --> 01:12:21: Yeah.
01:12:21 --> 01:12:24: I just want to jump in and say there's, we're
01:12:24 --> 01:12:27: hearing a need for kind of a how to guide
01:12:27 --> 01:12:30: and sometimes that sits on the city planning side and
01:12:31 --> 01:12:34: a landscape manual that really breaks down code language
to
01:12:34 --> 01:12:38: residential customers and what they can do to meet code
01:12:38 --> 01:12:39: requirements.
01:12:39 --> 01:12:42: And then also how is that kind of scaled up
01:12:42 --> 01:12:46: across multiple jurisdictions when you're an entity like Denver
Water
01:12:46 --> 01:12:49: that serves water kind of both in a city role
01:12:49 --> 01:12:51: and a wholesale role.
01:12:51 --> 01:12:54: So that's one thing that I, I think there's a
01:12:54 --> 01:12:56: lot of interest around right now.
01:12:56 --> 01:12:59: And how do you make it granular enough that it
01:12:59 --> 01:13:03: works for your customers, but also to the the Sonoma
01:13:03 --> 01:13:07: Marin partnership standpoint across a larger area?
01:13:07 --> 01:13:08: So those are a couple things.
01:13:08 --> 01:13:10: And what are all the right things to include in
01:13:10 --> 01:13:11: something like that?
01:13:13 --> 01:13:14: Paul, could you jump in?
01:13:16 --> 01:13:16: Oh, you're muted?

01:13:18 --> 01:13:24: Yeah, that's pretty broad, broad list to cover.

01:13:27 --> 01:13:30: You know, I, I, I know that the, the public

01:13:30 --> 01:13:34: rule making that just opened up for California's water fish

01:13:35 --> 01:13:40: landscape ordinance was, you know, initiated by DWR specifically to

01:13:40 --> 01:13:42: make it more understandable.

01:13:43 --> 01:13:47: Kind of to your point, you know, code language isn't

01:13:47 --> 01:13:51: always easy to navigate, not only for end users, but

01:13:51 --> 01:13:54: even for government staff and developers.

01:13:55 --> 01:13:59: I just took the first pass through the draft changes

01:13:59 --> 01:14:02: and it took me all day yesterday and a lot

01:14:02 --> 01:14:04: of note taking and sticky notes.

01:14:04 --> 01:14:06: And I'm going to have to go back through it

01:14:06 --> 01:14:08: another four times probably before I understand it.

01:14:08 --> 01:14:12: But to your point, you know, I, I think that

01:14:12 --> 01:14:18: having some guidance material to supplement the code requirements is,

01:14:18 --> 01:14:21: is always going to be a necessity.

01:14:21 --> 01:14:24: You know, and I know that a lot of the

01:14:24 --> 01:14:28: public agencies that have, you know, a regional adaptation of

01:14:28 --> 01:14:33: California's water efficient landscape ordinance don't just hand the code

01:14:33 --> 01:14:35: or reference the code for developers.

01:14:35 --> 01:14:39: They, they have a development packet that they've put together

01:14:39 --> 01:14:43: that kind of helps handle them through the process.

01:14:44 --> 01:14:48: They've developed additional resources potentially locally that are a little

01:14:48 --> 01:14:51: bit easier to implement or easier to understand than what

01:14:51 --> 01:14:54: is provided as part of the code through the state.

01:14:55 --> 01:14:57: And so all of that is is going to benefit

01:14:57 --> 01:14:58: the process.

01:14:58 --> 01:15:03: And could you repeat the second part of your question?

01:15:05 --> 01:15:07: Yeah, the the second part was.

01:15:07 --> 01:15:11: So I think that answers the first part really well

01:15:11 --> 01:15:15: of like having those manual and breaking the code language

01:15:15 --> 01:15:17: into to how you comply with code.

01:15:17 --> 01:15:20: The next one was kind of that like step by

01:15:20 --> 01:15:23: step guide and I, I think I saw a link

01:15:23 --> 01:15:27: in your presentation to like the maintenance after installation side

01:15:27 --> 01:15:28: of things.

01:15:28 --> 01:15:32: So even even something that's larger from design build and

01:15:32 --> 01:15:36: then maintain and how do we interact with our customers
01:15:37 --> 01:15:40: that are doing more of a do it yourself approach
01:15:40 --> 01:15:42: or what are they considering?
01:15:42 --> 01:15:45: So they're asking their contractors the right questions along
the
01:15:45 --> 01:15:45: way.
01:15:46 --> 01:15:49: And I think when I was looking through your document,
01:15:49 --> 01:15:52: I there, there's a lot of different topics in there
01:15:52 --> 01:15:53: that I thought were great.
01:15:54 --> 01:15:56: But I'm just trying to, in my mind figure out
01:15:56 --> 01:15:59: what is the right tool for customers that are approaching
01:15:59 --> 01:16:00: in this.
01:16:00 --> 01:16:04: Not from a customer or a landscape ordinance perspective,
but
01:16:04 --> 01:16:07: just as like this is the right thing to do.
01:16:07 --> 01:16:08: Right now.
01:16:08 --> 01:16:10: I don't have much interest in landscape, but I know
01:16:10 --> 01:16:13: that I need to move away from turfgrass and have
01:16:13 --> 01:16:15: a more robust landscape that can serve all these different
01:16:15 --> 01:16:16: needs.
01:16:20 --> 01:16:21: Yeah.
01:16:21 --> 01:16:24: Well, I mean, we kind of hit them on all
01:16:24 --> 01:16:24: sides.
01:16:24 --> 01:16:27: You know, it's a multi front approach to sort of
01:16:27 --> 01:16:29: get them moving in the right direction.
01:16:29 --> 01:16:33: And I think there's the DIY approach.
01:16:33 --> 01:16:37: And so providing a significant amount of resources to help
01:16:37 --> 01:16:40: them understand what needs to be done and why and
01:16:41 --> 01:16:44: to take that first step and sort of breakdown the
01:16:44 --> 01:16:47: barriers that are in front of them for being able
01:16:48 --> 01:16:49: to do that themselves.
01:16:50 --> 01:16:55: For example, we collaborate with our local master Gardener
program
01:16:55 --> 01:16:59: to provide free residential consultations.
01:16:59 --> 01:17:02: So we've both trained up Master Gardeners to a higher
01:17:02 --> 01:17:06: level of understanding of design criteria and low water use
01:17:06 --> 01:17:10: plant criteria and irrigation system conversion criteria to give
them
01:17:10 --> 01:17:13: the confidence to go out and meet one-on-one with
customers
01:17:13 --> 01:17:16: to help discuss with them how to get started if
01:17:16 --> 01:17:20: they're doing this themselves, how to convert their
landscape, even

01:17:20 --> 01:17:23: provide a rudimentary sketch if they don't have the financial
01:17:23 --> 01:17:25: resources to hire a designer.
01:17:26 --> 01:17:27: So we have a program like that.
01:17:27 --> 01:17:31: And then we also partner with the landscape community.
01:17:31 --> 01:17:35: We've developed a training program called the Qualified
Water Efficient
01:17:35 --> 01:17:40: Landscaper Program, which actually is offered throughout
several western States
01:17:40 --> 01:17:43: and a province in Canada now to both elevate the
01:17:43 --> 01:17:48: understanding of landscape contractors to these concepts
and feel confident
01:17:48 --> 01:17:51: that they can go out and sell this to a
01:17:51 --> 01:17:54: homeowner that might be resistant to removing a lawn.
01:17:54 --> 01:17:58: And explain the benefits to them about why and give
01:17:58 --> 01:18:02: them the confidence that this is a benefit to their
01:18:02 --> 01:18:05: bottom line as well as to their customers.
01:18:07 --> 01:18:10: And then we do a lot of just community outreach.
01:18:10 --> 01:18:13: We're, you know, we're building exhibits at the fair that
01:18:13 --> 01:18:17: demonstrate all these landscape concepts, putting them out
on the
01:18:17 --> 01:18:21: website, doing social media campaigns year round
sometimes.
01:18:21 --> 01:18:22: So I wouldn't say it's one thing.
01:18:22 --> 01:18:25: I would say you kind of have to be multifaceted
01:18:25 --> 01:18:27: for it to really take hold and move forward.
01:18:29 --> 01:18:30: Yeah, that's really helpful.
01:18:30 --> 01:18:33: And I I would also say here in Colorado, a
01:18:34 --> 01:18:37: lot of the most recent codes are planning to quell.
01:18:37 --> 01:18:40: So thank you for that starting that wonderful resource.
01:18:41 --> 01:18:43: And and I would say, you know, a meeting like
01:18:43 --> 01:18:45: this is very helpful from the standpoint of we're learning
01:18:45 --> 01:18:46: a lot from Colorado.
01:18:47 --> 01:18:51: We were recently on a grant application trying to mimic
01:18:51 --> 01:18:54: a garden in a box program that was developed in
01:18:54 --> 01:18:57: Colorado as a way to breakdown barriers to do it
01:18:57 --> 01:19:02: yourself landscape conversions and working with local
nurseries to provide
01:19:02 --> 01:19:06: a palliative plants that's A and a design that's scalable
01:19:06 --> 01:19:07: and replicable.
01:19:07 --> 01:19:10: So we we're all in this together, I think and
01:19:10 --> 01:19:13: can learn and and share resources in a way that
01:19:13 --> 01:19:14: makes us more successful.
01:19:15 --> 01:19:16: Sorry, Cassie.

01:19:17 --> 01:19:17: No, it's OK.

01:19:19 --> 01:19:23: Going back to the, the partnerships and the nonprofits, there's

01:19:23 --> 01:19:27: several nonprofits and I'm sure in everyone's region there are

01:19:27 --> 01:19:29: the same, you know, counterparts.

01:19:29 --> 01:19:35: But here there's the United States Green Building Council for

01:19:35 --> 01:19:40: Los Angeles and they have, and it is they do

01:19:40 --> 01:19:46: have a version for practitioners contractors, but they have a

01:19:46 --> 01:19:52: contractors home hardening class for wildfire defense and a landscape

01:19:53 --> 01:19:55: wildfire defense class.

01:19:55 --> 01:19:58: And the Theodore Payne Foundation, as I mentioned, has this

01:19:59 --> 01:20:00: certified garden class.

01:20:00 --> 01:20:02: And these are gardeners that come to homeowners.

01:20:02 --> 01:20:06: They're teaching these gardeners how to help people adapt their

01:20:06 --> 01:20:07: gardens, you know, bit by bit.

01:20:07 --> 01:20:11: So I think finding those resources that might already be

01:20:11 --> 01:20:13: doing things like that in your.

01:20:13 --> 01:20:16: Region is is really useful because there's so many well

01:20:16 --> 01:20:19: intended organizations that are launching these things and we don't

01:20:19 --> 01:20:20: even know about it.

01:20:20 --> 01:20:22: It's hard to put it all together, but they're that

01:20:22 --> 01:20:23: they're out there.

01:20:28 --> 01:20:31: So I'm going to circle back on the question of

01:20:31 --> 01:20:33: can the coalition help gather resources?

01:20:33 --> 01:20:37: Do these, are these resources listed somewhere already that we

01:20:37 --> 01:20:38: could share with the coalition?

01:20:39 --> 01:20:40: I'd love to hear from the group.

01:20:48 --> 01:20:50: Is Lindsay Rogers on the call still?

01:20:54 --> 01:20:56: I am so sorry I had to step away for

01:20:56 --> 01:20:57: a minute but I am back.

01:20:57 --> 01:20:59: Can you repeat the question?

01:21:00 --> 01:21:00: No problem.

01:21:00 --> 01:21:01: Thanks for joining Lindsay.

01:21:02 --> 01:21:04: I it was a question of the group of can

01:21:04 --> 01:21:09: the coalition help with gathering resources related to these landscape

01:21:09 --> 01:21:10: resources?

01:21:10 --> 01:21:13: Can we put together like a shared document, share links,

01:21:13 --> 01:21:15: things like that, or does that already exist somewhere and

01:21:16 --> 01:21:17: we could share that with the coalition?

01:21:18 --> 01:21:20: I'm just wondering how how can we support this?

01:21:23 --> 01:21:25: Yeah, I think it's a great question.

01:21:25 --> 01:21:28: I think Marianne, on a, you know, planning call we

01:21:28 --> 01:21:31: held initially a couple months back for this topic, we

01:21:31 --> 01:21:35: had, you know, raised a similar idea because there are

01:21:35 --> 01:21:39: so many organizations and individuals out there who are compiling

01:21:39 --> 01:21:43: some of these resources, whether it's, you know, design templates

01:21:43 --> 01:21:47: or landscape codes or, you know, other planning documents.

01:21:47 --> 01:21:53: So to my knowledge at least, you know, like regionally

01:21:53 --> 01:22:00: that sort of like aggregated resource document doesn't exist.

01:22:01 --> 01:22:04: So it could be a really good fit for the

01:22:04 --> 01:22:08: Coalition, you know, something informal, but a way to compile

01:22:09 --> 01:22:11: those various guidance documents.

01:22:15 --> 01:22:16: Great, thank you.

01:22:16 --> 01:22:17: Anyone else have thoughts on this?

01:22:29 --> 01:22:31: Richard, you have a question.

01:22:31 --> 01:22:32: Do you want to just unmute quickly?

01:22:35 --> 01:22:36: No, not as much a question.

01:22:36 --> 01:22:40: I was just commenting on Paul's note earlier about the

01:22:40 --> 01:22:41: interest in counties.

01:22:41 --> 01:22:44: I represent almost a County Down in the Sunland Valley

01:22:44 --> 01:22:47: and as we're going into a comprehensive planning update process,

01:22:48 --> 01:22:50: water use as a as a primary driver of that

01:22:50 --> 01:22:50: process.

01:22:50 --> 01:22:53: And and we're really smiling because she and I have

01:22:53 --> 01:22:56: had a version of this conversation a couple times about

01:22:56 --> 01:22:58: how do counties drive change when we lack a lot

01:22:58 --> 01:23:01: of the kind of levers through water efficiency programming, the

01:23:01 --> 01:23:03: water provision or those kinds of things.

01:23:03 --> 01:23:06: So kind of come at this from a landscaping perspective

01:23:06 --> 01:23:10: and some of these other things particularly like the slide.

01:23:10 --> 01:23:10: That I think.

01:23:10 --> 01:23:13: Paul Well, one of the polls had with the, you

01:23:13 --> 01:23:15: know, this is what a water lined landscape looks like

01:23:15 --> 01:23:17: and it's not a yard full of gravel.

01:23:18 --> 01:23:20: I think that's an excellent visual SO.

01:23:23 --> 01:23:24: Thank you.

01:23:25 --> 01:23:27: All right, well, I'm going to wrap us up with
01:23:27 --> 01:23:29: just a few slides and if you have any other
01:23:29 --> 01:23:31: comments, feel free to put them in the chat
01:23:31 --> 01:23:31: box.
01:23:32 --> 01:23:36: Just quick, quickly our upcoming meeting, we were thinking
about
01:23:36 --> 01:23:41: talking about water wise policies, regulations and incentives,
kind of
01:23:41 --> 01:23:42: giving that national overview.
01:23:43 --> 01:23:47: So I was going to connect with Sonoran Alliance for
01:23:47 --> 01:23:50: Water Efficiency and Babbitt Center on, on that.
01:23:50 --> 01:23:53: But if there's anyone else who's interested in getting involved
01:23:53 --> 01:23:55: in the planning for this or, and, or speaking for
01:23:56 --> 01:23:58: this, please put it in the chat box or shoot
01:23:58 --> 01:23:58: me an e-mail.
01:23:59 --> 01:24:01: And then you can see the upcoming topics as well.
01:24:01 --> 01:24:04: And these are open for discussion.
01:24:04 --> 01:24:07: If if anyone wants to discuss further, please do.
01:24:09 --> 01:24:11: And then I just wanted to do a quick pitch
01:24:12 --> 01:24:14: for our Resilience Summit that's coming up.
01:24:14 --> 01:24:17: It'll be on April 12th this year in New York
01:24:17 --> 01:24:20: City, and it's going to include a workshop on water
01:24:20 --> 01:24:23: scarcity and stress, but it also includes a lot of
01:24:23 --> 01:24:27: content on all sorts of different resilience topics that are
01:24:27 --> 01:24:32: relevant now, like liability insurance and finance and local
implementation
01:24:32 --> 01:24:35: and extreme heat and coastal resilience and flooding.
01:24:35 --> 01:24:37: So there's all sorts of things that are going to
01:24:37 --> 01:24:38: be covered.
01:24:38 --> 01:24:41: We're going to have wonderful speakers and you can use
01:24:41 --> 01:24:43: this QR code to find out more information.
01:24:45 --> 01:24:47: And if that's all I have today, is there anyone
01:24:47 --> 01:24:49: who wants to say anything else?
01:24:49 --> 01:24:50: Any other comments or questions?
01:24:55 --> 01:24:56: Thank you for having us.
01:24:57 --> 01:25:00: Oh, thank you to our speakers for their excellent
presentations.
01:25:01 --> 01:25:03: I know there's interest in sharing.
01:25:03 --> 01:25:06: I have the recording and if the speakers are open
01:25:06 --> 01:25:09: to sharing their slides, I'll share the slides and we'll
01:25:09 --> 01:25:12: also work on maybe an aggregation document where people
from
01:25:12 --> 01:25:15: the coalition are welcome to add their resources.

01:25:17 --> 01:25:18: Great, great, excellent.
01:25:19 --> 01:25:21: I hope everyone has a wonderful evening.
01:25:22 --> 01:25:23: Depending on your time zone, I guess.
01:25:24 --> 01:25:25: But yeah, thank you for calling in today.
01:25:27 --> 01:25:27: Thanks, everyone.
01:25:27 --> 01:25:28: Thanks, Marianne.
01:25:28 --> 01:25:29: Thanks, everyone.
01:25:29 --> 01:25:30: Take care.
01:25:31 --> 01:25:31: Bye.
01:25:31 --> 01:25:31: You too.
01:25:37 --> 01:25:40: Marianne, I'm more than happy to have you share the
01:25:40 --> 01:25:41: slide deck if you'd like.
01:25:42 --> 01:25:43: Thank you so much.
01:25:43 --> 01:25:46: You know, I don't know if you want APDF version
01:25:46 --> 01:25:48: of it or if you just want to distribute it
01:25:48 --> 01:25:51: as a PowerPoint, but the file size again tends to
01:25:51 --> 01:25:53: be constraining, sometimes through e-mail.
01:25:53 --> 01:25:56: So if I convert to a PDF I can compress it
01:25:56 --> 01:25:57: much more easily.
01:25:58 --> 01:26:00: I'll share them by PDF, but we don't have the
01:26:01 --> 01:26:04: file issue because we use SharePoint so it's all by
01:26:04 --> 01:26:04: the cloud.
01:26:05 --> 01:26:05: Sounds great.
01:26:06 --> 01:26:08: Thank you for the inviting.
01:26:08 --> 01:26:10: Very nice to meet with you and get to participate
01:26:10 --> 01:26:11: today, so.
01:26:11 --> 01:26:13: Oh well, it was wonderful having you and we want
01:26:13 --> 01:26:14: to share your resources.
01:26:14 --> 01:26:16: So thank you so much, Paul and Cassie.
01:26:17 --> 01:26:17: I appreciate you.
01:26:17 --> 01:26:17: Bye.
01:26:18 --> 01:26:18: Take care.
01:26:19 --> 01:26:19: Bye.
01:26:19 --> 01:26:19: You too.

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