



**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region**

Resolution No. R1-2011-0094

Endorsing the

**Russian River Watershed Association's Seven Principles and Practices
of Russian River-Friendly Landscaping**

- WHEREAS, Public agencies and organizations set forth goals for preserving and improving the natural and built environment, protecting the health of residents and visitors, and conserving natural resources; and
- WHEREAS, A sustainable landscape can have a significant positive effect on: energy, water and resource efficiency, waste and pollution generation, wildlife habitat, and human health; and
- WHEREAS, Russian River-Friendly landscape design, construction, operation, and maintenance contributes to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, improves water and air quality and enhances quality of life;
- WHEREAS, California's water supply is limited and under increasing pressure, and Russian River-Friendly landscaping and gardening conserves water; and
- WHEREAS, Russian River-Friendly landscape and gardening practices support and enhance green building practices by extending them beyond the building and into the landscape, and recognizing that landscapes are a vital part of our built environment; and
- WHEREAS, In recent years, sustainable landscape design, construction, and operational techniques have become increasingly widespread in the Russian River watershed and throughout California, with many homeowners, commercial property owners and landscape professionals voluntarily seeking to incorporate sustainable landscaping techniques into their projects; and
- WHEREAS, Sustainable landscaping practices promote the economic and environmental health of the Russian River watershed; and
- WHEREAS, Incorporating Russian River-Friendly landscape and gardening practices into public landscapes, and landscape maintenance contracts for public landscapes is desired, and provides leadership by example: and
- WHEREAS, The Russian River-Friendly Landscape and Gardening Seven Principles and Practices are listed below:

- 1) **Landscape Locally:** Built landscapes are a part of the larger ecosystem of Russian River watershed and they can contribute to the watershed's health if designed and maintained using sustainable practices.
- 2) **Landscape for Less to the Landfill:** We reduce waste by choosing the right plants, avoiding invasive plant species, using recycled and salvaged products in the landscape and by composting, mulching and grasscycling plant debris.
- 3) **Nurture the Soil:** Soils are living ecosystems and when landscape practices allow the soil food web to thrive it can filter pollution, store water, provide plant nutrients, and help plants resist pests naturally.
- 4) **Conserve Water:** Use a holistic approach to water use by creating drought resistant soils with compost and mulch, selecting plants naturally adapted to summer-dry climates, using stormwater, graywater and recycled water in the landscape as much as possible, and using efficient irrigation systems that include self adjusting, weather-based controllers.
- 5) **Conserve Energy:** Energy use is reduced by minimizing the need for mowing and shearing, by shading buildings and paved areas, by using efficient outdoor lighting, and by purchasing local landscape products.
- 6) **Protect Water and Air Quality:** We protect air and water quality by maximizing permeable surfaces and minimizing stormwater runoff; using integrated pest management; minimizing the use of synthetic pesticides and avoiding overuse of fertilizers; reducing fossil fuel consumption; and planting trees to remove CO₂ and absorb air pollutants.
- 7) **Create Wildlife Habitat:** Biodiversity is crucial to the health of natural ecosystems, and by using native plants and increasing the diversity of plant species, our built landscapes can provide food, water, and shelter for beneficial insects, birds, mammals and other creatures.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, wish to proclaim that the Seven Principles and Practices of Russian River-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening are a model approach to sustainable landscaping in the Russian River watershed, while reserving any and all regional board rights.

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