Use this Project Checklist

**Prepare to work** pp. 1-4

- **Clean up Your Property**
  - Remove trash and debris, weeds, dead plants

- **Orient Yourself**
  - Check with socalwatersmart.com for rebate eligibility
  - Check with City if permits are required, and secure them if needed
  - Find out if you are in a hillside grading area or special viewshed
  - Confirm fire regulations in your area

- **Make a List of Things You Want In Your New Landscape**
  - Think about how much maintenance you want to do
  - Consider how much rainwater you want to catch in barrels or cisterns
  - Determine how much of your property you want to change – and how much lawn to remove

**Plan before digging** pp. 21-28

**Do you need design help?**

**Walk around and take photos (for BEFORE)**

- **Make a Site Plan**
  - Take measurements
  - Make a Microclimate Plan

- **WaterPlan**
  - Do roof area calculations
  - Note location of downspouts
  - Calculate water available from each downspout

- **Grading Plan For Capturing Rainwater**
  - Look at slope of the site
  - Plan for where to stockpile topsoil if project is large
  - Identify trees to be protected during construction

- **Test Soil Type**
  - Percolation Test – Brick or Sponge?
  - Jar Test - Sand, Silt or Clay?

- **Make an Existing Irrigation System Plan**
  - Run irrigation and make immediate adjustments
  - Determine whether or not you will abandon the irrigation or convert spray to drip
  - Adjust controller program time to eliminate runoff (cycle and soak)

- **Do Some Shopping and Research**
  - Source rain chains, rainbarrels and cisterns
  - Source mulch and compost
  - Go to nurseries for plants and watch for native plant sales
  - Install gutters, if you want to harvest more water

**APPLY FOR YOUR REBATE AND GET PRE-APPROVAL BEFORE YOU BEGIN WORK!**
Use this **Project Checklist**

### Design for plants  pp. 29-36

What do you want in your yard?

Follow guidelines for hillside planting

Ask for help at a nursery or native plant sale

- **Make A Planting Plan**
  - Assign Plant Factors to existing material
  - Research native plant communities for your area
  - Consider butterflies and pollinators
  - Where are the swales and berms (wet and dry feet)?
  - Add in edibles and fruit trees
  - Select one or two shade trees
  - Check [www.plantright.org](http://www.plantright.org) for the BAD GUYS
  - Scale plants for maturity
  - Hydrozone

### Begin your project installation  pp. 37-44

Do you need construction/installation help?

**CALL 8-1-1 BEFORE BEGINNING WORK**

- **Make Calls to Order Equipment, Material, Deliveries**
  - Rent a sod cutter and dumpster, if necessary
  - Order organic matter for the soil
  - Select boulders and gravel for creek beds, if you like that look
  - Order catch basins or piping for irrigation and drainage
  - Deliver rain barrels and cisterns

- **Stockpile Soil and Protect Trees**
  - Protect trees from construction damage (limbs and roots)
  - Remove plants that are not wanted

- **Change Existing Hardscape to Make It More Permeable**

- **Remove Grass and Build Soil With Soil Lasagna**
  - Continue to water your lawn up to two days before removal
  - Remove your turf without chemicals through Sheet Mulching

- **Contour Site For Rain**
  - Contour soil to hold onto First Flush (first inch of rain)
  - Remember 150 sq. ft. of area, six inches deep for every 1,000 sq. ft. of roof
  - Do not remove soil; use it to create your contours
  - Add organic matter to the soil
  - Install catch basins, drainage pipe and sleeves under hardscape

- **Repair Irrigation**
  - Identify or move future drip irrigation points of connection
  - Replace valves for low pressure valves
  - Install pressure regulator, flow meter, or landscape sub-meter
  - Install low-head check valves on slopes and grade changes

- **Capture Rainwater**
  - Lay out plan using flour, chalk or builder’s inverted spray paint
  - Install boulders and materials for creek beds or swales
  - Install rain barrel or cisterns
Use this **Project Checklist**

**Install** new plants pp. 44-62

Compare Planting Plan with Existing Irrigation Plan

Fall is the best time to get free rain irrigation!

Order or purchase plants and gather materials necessary for planting

- **Lay Out Planting Plan**
  - Lay out your Planting Plan using flour or chalk
  - Make your “in field” adjustments
  - Install your plants into the Soil Lasagna
  - Be sure to respect correct plant placement for mature size
  - If drainage is poor, auger holes and wait to complete
  - Thoroughly and completely water holes, plants, and surrounding soil

**Upgrade** and adjust new irrigation pp. 34-36

Consider hand watering until landscape is established (1-2 dry seasons)

- **Accommodate the Planting Plan**
  - Convert spray head sprinklers to drip or install new drip lines
  - Cap all unused spray head sprinklers
  - Install tattle-tale flush assemblies
  - Install end caps on the drip zones
  - Create an “as built” drawing of the new irrigation layout
  - Install a weather-based irrigation controller

**Establish** and steward new landscape pp. 63-68

- **Complete Irrigation Installation**
  - Irrigation for establishment is best used during fall, winter and spring months if rainfall is limited
  - Adjust irrigation to eliminate runoff
  - Regularly flush drip irrigation lines, especially during the first year
  - Seasonally adjust automatic irrigation schedule
  - Reduce in fall; turn it off in winter!
  - Move drip irrigation and add emitters as the tree grows in order to maintain the wetting zone at the outside edge of the tree’s canopy (dripline)

- **Maintain Living Soil and Plants**
  - Maintain 3” of living mulch and add more annually (more mulch, fewer weeds)
  - Practice Integrated Pest Management

- **Maintain Rainwater Capture Systems**
  - Make sure gutters are not clogged
  - Clean rainbarrels/cisterns and clean out catch basins
  - Make sure mosquito screen is not ripped
  - Flush pipes
  - Remove debris from swales, especially at inlets/outlets