WATER CONSERVATION SURCHARGE PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS FOR WATER USE EFFICIENCY REBATE PROGRAMS

Public Utilities Department

City Council
September 20, 2022

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BACKGROUND

1. June 12, 2018 – City Council Approved RPU's participation for the use of SoCalWaterSmart website for water rebates.

2. RPU water customers have been utilizing SoCalWaterSmart to apply for and to receive rebates for many different conservation measures such as:

    a. Turf Removal
    b. High Efficiency Clothes Washers
    c. Weather Based Irrigation Controllers

SoCal Water$mart

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DROUGHT RESPONSE

1. Increase incentive levels for turf removal
2. Continue elevated incentive level for outdoor water use efficiency rebates
3. Offer new water efficiency rebates
4. Double the SoCalWaterSmart budget from $300,000 per year to $610,000 per year
5. Align RPU programs and messaging with WMWD as appropriate

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CURRENT PROGRAMS

SoCalWaterSmart				
Residential Incentive	**RPU Contribution**	**MWD Contribution**	**Total Incentive**	**Approved RPU FY 22/23 Budget**
Turf Removal (sq ft)	$1	$2	$3	$100,000
Weather Based Irrigation Controller	$120	$80	$200	$25,000
High Efficiency Sprinkler Nozzle	$3	$2	$5	$25,000
Commercial Incentive	**RPU Contribution**	**MWD Contribution**	**Total Incentive**	**Approved RPU FY 22/23 Budget**
Turf Removal (sq ft)	$1	$2	$3	$150,000
			Total Budget	**$300,000**

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TURF REMOVAL PROGRAM - ENHANCEMENTS

1. State-mandated commercial customer non-functional turf must not be irrigated

2. RPU Response:
   Increase turf removal incentive from $3 to $5 per square foot of turf removed for both residential and commercial customers for RPU Water customers
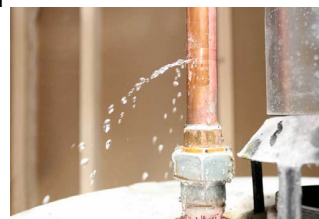

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FLOW MONITORING DEVICE PROGRAM - NEW

Residential Flow Monitoring Devices:

1. Flow monitoring devices monitor a home's water use and can help detect leaks.

2. Several varieties available on SoCalWaterSmart

3. RPU Water customers to be eligible for up to $75 from RPU and $100 from MWD for approved devices

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HOSE BIB IRRIGATION CONTROLLER PROGRAM - NEW

Residential hose bib irrigation controllers:

1. Hose bib timers connect to any hose faucet
2. Used to efficiently irrigate landscaping
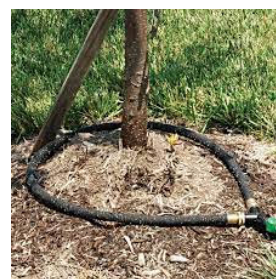3. RPU Water customers to be eligible for up to $15 from RPU and $35 from MWD for approved devices

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TREE CARE PROGRAM- NEW

Residential Tree Care Program:

1. The US Forest Service recommends the use of soaker hoses and a mulch ring for irrigating trees during water restrictions.
2. This method of irrigation is extremely valuable for those customers who have existing trees which are normally irrigated during turf irrigation
3. For RPU Water customers that provide proof of purchase for a hose bib timer and at least one bag of mulch, RPU will provide them with a free soaker hose at the Customer Resource Center.

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PROPOSED PROGRAMS

SoCal Water$mart

SoCalWaterSmart				
Residential Incentive	**RPU Contribution**	**MWD Contribution**	**Total Incentive**	**Proposed RPU FY 22/23 Budget**
Turf Removal (sq ft)	**$3**	**$2**	**$5**	**$225,000**
Weather Based Irrigation Controller	$120	$80	$200	$25,000
High Efficiency Sprinkler Nozzle	$3	$2	$5	**$15,000**
Flow Monitoring Device (New)	**$75**	**$100**	**$175**	**$25,000**
Hose Bib Irrigations Controller (New)	**$15**	**$35**	**$50**	**$10,000**
Commercial Incentive	**RPU Contribution**	**MWD Contribution**	**Total Incentive**	**Proposed RPU FY 22/23 Budget**
Turf Removal (sq ft)	$3	$2	**$5**	**$300,000**
RPU – Casa Blanca Resource Center				
Residential Incentive				
Tree Care Program (New)				**$10,000**
			Total Budget	**$610,000**

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RPU REBATE COST

Water Use Efficiency Devices	Annual Customer Water Reduction (savings) acre-feet/year	Device Lifetime (years)	Device Lifetime Savings (acre-feet)	RPU Cost per Customer Rebate	RPU Rebate Cost (per Acre Foot)
Customer Rebates available with additional RPU contribution					
Hose Bib Controller	0.0179	10	0.179	$15.00	$83.80
Leak Monitoring Device	0.0627	10	0.627	$75.00	$119.62
Rotary Multi-Stream Nozzle	0.0026	5	0.013	$3.00	$227.27
Weather Based Irrigation Controller (each; < 1 acre)	0.0414	10	0.414	$120.00	$289.86
Customer Rebates available with standard MWD contribution					
Cistern	0.0076	5	0.038	$0.00	$0.00
High Efficiency Clothes Washer	0.0328	14	0.459	$0.00	$0.00
Premium High Efficiency Toilet (Based on savings from 1.6 gpf unit)	0.0105	20	0.210	$0.00	$0.00
Rain Barrel	0.0019	5	0.010	$0.00	$0.00
Soil Moisture Sensor (/Station; > 1 acre)	0.0179	10	0.179	$0.00	$0.00
Soil Moisture Sensor (each; < 1 acre)	0.0414	10	0.414	$0.00	$0.00
Weather Based Irrigation Controller (/Station; > 1 acre)	0.0179	10	0.179	$0.00	$0.00
Turf - Tiered rebate program					
Customer Rebates available with additional RPU contribution					
Turf Removal (per square foot) - 250 - 1,000 sq. ft. Residential	0.0001	10	0.001	$3.00	$2,307.69
Turf Removal (per square foot) - 250 - 5,000 sq. ft. Commercial	0.0001	10	0.001	$3.00	$2,307.69
Customer Rebates available with standard MWD contribution					
Turf Removal (per square foot) - 1001 - 5,000 sq. ft. Residential	0.0001	10	0.001	$0.00	$0.00
Turf Removal (per square foot) - 5,001 - 50,000 sq. ft. Commercial	0.0001	10	0.001	$0.00	$0.00

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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Priority 4 - Environmental Stewardship

Goal 4.2 - sustainably manage local water resources to maximize reliability and advance water reuse to ensure safe, reliable and affordable water to our community

Cross-Cutting Threads

Community Trust

Fiscal Responsibility

Sustainability & Resiliency

Equity

Innovation

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Approve the change to the Residential Turf Removal Program, to increase funding from $3 per square foot of turf to $5 per square foot of turf, estimated total fiscal impact for FY 2022/23 of $125,000;

2. Approve the change to the Commercial Turf Removal Program, to increase funding from $3 per square foot of turf to $5 per square foot of turf, estimated fiscal impact for FY 2022/23 of $150,000;

3. Approve the new Residential Flow Monitoring Device Program, estimated fiscal impact for FY 2022/23 of $25,000;

4. Approve the new Residential Hose Bib Program, estimated fiscal impact for FY 2022/23 of $10,000; and

5. Approve the purchase of soaker hoses for the Tree Care Program, estimated fiscal impact for FY 2022/23 of $10,000.

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