



# WATER CONSERVATION SURCHARGE

## Customer Engagement

**Board of Public Utilities**  
January 22, 2024

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## WATER CONSERVATION SURCHARGE EST. 2004

May 2004 the Board and City Council approved and established the Water Conservation Surcharge.

I. Amount:

- a. 0.5% effective June 1, 2004,
- b. another 0.5% effective June 1, 2005,
- c. and a final 0.5% effective June 1, 2006, for a total of 1.5% of total water rates and charges

II. Effective Date: **through May 31, 2014**



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## WATER CONSERVATION SURCHARGE EST. 2004

### III. Funds restricted to:

1. Water conservation and reclamation education programs;
2. Water conservation and reclamation programs;
3. Science and technology advancement of water conservation and reclamation research, development and demonstration programs;
4. Water conservation and reclamation assistance for low-income customers in the City; and
5. Other programs consistent with the Board's water conservation and reclamations goals and objectives.<sup>3</sup>



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## WATER CONSERVATION SURCHARGE RENEWED 2014

In March 2014 and April 2014, the Board and City Council respectively renewed the Water Conservation Surcharge.

I. Amount: 1.5% of total water rates and charges

II. Effective Date: **through April 22, 2024**

### III. Funds restricted to:

1. Conservation, education, and water use efficiency programs; and
2. Research, development, and demonstration programs to advance science and technology with respect to water conservation.



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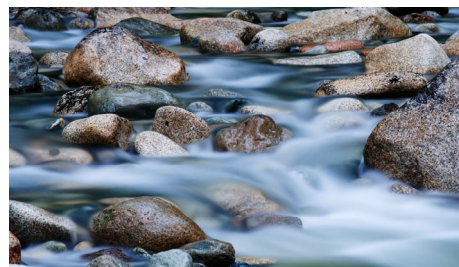
## SAVING WATER IS A WAY OF LIFE

In 2009, SB x7-7 mandated urban water suppliers to lower per capita water usage 20% by the year 2020.



State Water  
Resources  
Control Board

In 2018, Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1688 created the framework for 'Conservation is a California Way of Life' requires that retail water agencies calculate, and annually report water use metrics.



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## CONSERVATION SURCHARGE 20-YEAR SUCCESS

The water conservation programs and efforts are funded solely through the Water Conservation Surcharge.

RPU has expended over \$13 million dollars and leveraged an additional \$5.2 million dollars in conservation program funding from WMWD and the Metropolitan Water District and MET.

The Water Conservation Surcharge has funded programs that have resulted in:

**61,318** customer rebates for water efficiency measures  
lifetime water savings of **13.4 billion gallons of water.**



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## WATER EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS



Turf Replacement



Rotating Sprinkler  
Nozzles



High Efficiency  
Clothes Washers



Weather Based  
Irrigation Controllers



Premium High  
Efficiency Toilets

**Additional Information on Programs & Rebates available at:**  
[RiversidePublicUtilities.com/Rebates](http://RiversidePublicUtilities.com/Rebates)



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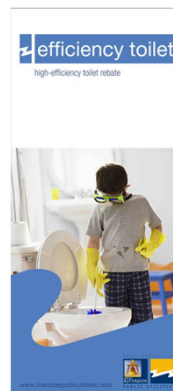
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## CONSERVATION SURCHARGE - REBATES

Since 2014, over 38,800 water rebates provided for a water savings of over 4.2 billion gallons of water

Measure/device	Number Provided	Water Savings (Gallons)
High Efficiency Clothes Washers	3,606	28,940,868
High Efficiency Toilets	2,625	31,410,016
Smart Irrigation Controllers (Direct Installation)	1,709	116,468,836
High Efficiency Sprinkler Nozzles	27,492	116,748,588
Weather based irrigation controller	668	28,464,392
Commercial waterwise landscape	57	3,384,311,040
Waterwise landscape incentive	614	481,914,708



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## CONSERVATION SURCHARGE - TURF

Since 2014, residential and commercial turf replacement programs have seen nearly 2.5 million square feet of turf being removed

Description	Turf Removed Sq Ft
Residential	1,048,635
Commercial	1,446,410
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,495,045</b>



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## CONSERVATION SURCHARGE - TURF

Since 2014, RPU has had taught over 549 water classes with over 16,000 young people participating, with 51 specific water education community events with 16,000 participants

Water Classes	Class Participants	Water Conservation Community Events	Community Event Participants
549	16,020	51	15,892



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## CONSERVATION SURCHARGE PROJECTS

### Kathleen Gonzales Memorial Waterwise Garden

Location: connected to the SSgt. Salvador J. Lara Casa Blanca Library; 3025 Madison St

Date: October 2005

Funded by the Water Conservation Surcharge, the garden provides an example and inspiration of what's possible from a drought-tolerant landscape.



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## CONSERVATION SURCHARGE PROJECTS

### Janet Goeske Center WaterWise Garden

Location: 5257 Sierra St.

Date: Completed Fall 2018

Description: The 45,000 sq. ft. turf removal project showcases:

1. Conservation education
2. California-native and drought-tolerant plants
3. Various methods of climate appropriate landscaping



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## WATER USE RESTRICTION - NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF

State Water Resources Control Board, Media Release May 31, 2023

Effective until June 2024 (expected to be renewed) - Watering decorative grass on business and government properties.

*"The regulation bans watering non-functional turf, which generally is mowed grass that is not used for recreational or other community activities, at commercial, industrial and institutional properties. This applies to areas like grass in front of or next to large commercial buildings, and some common areas managed by homeowners' associations.*

*In addition to not applying to grass used for recreational or other community activities, the ban does not affect or prohibit watering residential lawns or trees. In fact, the state encourages people to keep watering trees because of their many environmental benefits. The ban also does not prohibit using recycled water for irrigating non-functional turf."*



[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2023/pr20230601-decorative-watering.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2023/pr20230601-decorative-watering.pdf) 13

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## WHAT'S NEXT

**Board of  
Public Utilities Public  
Hearing and  
Consideration**  
January 22, 2024

**City Council  
Consideration**  
April 9, 2024



**City Council's  
Financial  
Performance and  
Budget Committee**  
March 13, 2024



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## STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



### Strategic Priority 4 – Environmental Stewardship

Goal 4.2 - to 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 Board of Public Utilities:

1. Conduct a public hearing to engage the community and receive input related to the renewal of the Water Conservation Surcharge applicable to all RPU water customers;
2. Adopt a resolution of the ten-year Water Conservation Surcharge as described in that resolution;



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Public Utilities recommend City Council:

3. Approve the renewal of the Water Conservation Surcharge applicable to all RPU water customers, effective through the ten years thereafter; and
4. Adopt a resolution establishing the revised Schedules WA-1A, WA-1B, WA-2, WA-3, WA-4, WA-5, WA-6, WA-7, WA-8, WA-9 and WA-10, effective upon Council approval through ten years thereafter, and repealing Resolution No. 22675.



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