



## SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY – TURF REMOVAL PROGRAM

### Customer Engagement

Board of Public Utilities  
March 22, 2021

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## BACKGROUND

1. **July 10, 2020** - City of Riverside was awarded \$9.1 million dollars from the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) for a Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Implementation grant funded by California's Cap-and-Trade Program
2. **The TCC Grant** - allows low-income customers to reduce their water consumption by replacing turf with low water use plants at no cost to the customer
3. **TCC Grant** - administered by SAWPA through their Water Energy Community Action Network (WECAN) turf removal program



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# SAWPA

**The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) is a joint power authority that focuses on water resource issues:**

1. Water supply reliability
2. Water quality improvement
3. Recycled water
4. Wastewater treatment
5. Groundwater management
6. Brine disposal
7. Integrated regional planning



**WE CAN**

**SAWPA's Water Energy Community Action Network (WECAN) will facilitate a turf removal program to provide:**

1. Homes in disadvantaged communities in the TCC Grant Area within the Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) service territory
2. No cost to the customer
3. Front-yard turf removal
4. Replacement with drought tolerant landscape



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1. RPU is to contribute \$1 per square foot of turf removed for a maximum contribution of \$100,000 over a three-year period.
2. RPU coordination with SAWPA for outreach messages for the benefits of turf removal and water conservation.
3. SWAPA will use the grant funds, combined with the RPU match, to remove approx. 100,000 square feet of turf grass and replace it with drought tolerant landscaping on residential areas inside the project area.

The results are expected to assist customers by reducing water utility bills.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Public Utilities recommend that the City Council:

1. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between RPU and SAWPA to implement and administer the Water Energy Community Action Network's turf removal program; and
2. Authorize a grant match in the amount of \$100,000.