



# SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY – TURF REMOVAL PROGRAM

Riverside Public Utilities

City Council  
April 13, 2021

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## BACKGROUND

1. July 10, 2020 - City of Riverside awarded \$9.1 million from the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) for a Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Implementation grant funded by California's Cap-and-Trade Program
2. TCC Grant will allow 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 will be 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



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# WECAN

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

- 1. Available to 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



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## 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.***



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and Riverside Public Utilities 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 from the Public Utilities Water Conservation and Reclamation Fund (521) Unprogrammed Funds Account.



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