

Attachment 4: Description of Conservation Program Activities

The following provides a description of the conservation activities listed in Table 6 of the Agenda Memo.

Home Water Use Reports: Home Water Use Reports are a relatively new tool that water retailers have been using to inform residents – and in some cases, businesses – on the amount of water they are using relative to similar households. They are sent via email or postal mail a report that gives them a rating based on this water use. Recent studies have found that residential water use drops by roughly six percent as a result of these home water use reports. This is a current program that could potentially be expanded in the future (e.g. more water retailers participating).

Large Landscape Budgets: The Landscape Water Use Evaluation Program (LWUEP) is similar to the Home Water Use Reports program, but for large landscapes. All sites enrolled in the program receive a monthly water usage report. The reports provide an objective evaluation of a site's water use at a glance every billing period. Various data inputs, including irrigated area, vegetation types, type of irrigation system, and daily weather (evapotranspiration minus effective rainfall) are included in a detailed calculation in order to develop the water budgets. Sites are encouraged to share the monthly reports with everyone involved with landscape decision making at the site, including the bill payer, site manager, landscape contractor, and board members. Sites are also eligible to receive a complimentary on-site landscape field survey by an irrigation expert and receive a thorough investigation of the site's irrigation issues.

This is a current program that could potentially be expanded in the future (e.g. more water retailers and/or sites participating).

Meter Installation: Program provides a rebate for every water submeter installed at mobile home parks, condominium or apartment complexes. Water use records from mobile home parks that participated in our pilot study showed an average water savings of 23 percent per mobile home. Due to the results of the pilot study, the program was recently expanded to include condominium and apartment complexes. The program could potentially be expanded even further in the future (e.g. more sites participating through higher rebates, changes to city code, etc).

Landscape Rebate Program (turf replacement): The Landscape Rebate Program is designed to assist homeowners, commercial, industrial and institutional property owners, as well as multi-family complexes increase their outdoor water use efficiency by converting to qualifying low water using landscape and/or upgrading to qualifying irrigation equipment. The Landscape Rebate Program provides two types of rebates that can be combined or issued separately: landscape conversion rebates and irrigation hardware rebates (includes weather-based irrigation controllers, high-efficiency nozzles, and spray bodies or rotor sprinklers with check valves). Both components are currently offered but could be expanded in the future (e.g. more sites participating through higher rebates).

- **Landscape Conversion Rebate:** Rebate is for converting high water using landscape, such as turf or pools, to a qualifying low water using landscape. Conversion area requires a minimum of 50 percent qualifying plant coverage, 2 to 3 inches of mulch, and a conversion from overhead irrigation to drip/micro spray/bubbler or no irrigation.
- **Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Rebate:** Rebate is for upgrading to qualifying weather based irrigation controllers or “smart controllers”. These controllers automatically update the irrigation schedule throughout the year based on local weather conditions. Applicants are required to install a rain gauge to receive rebate.
- **High Efficiency Nozzles:** Rebate is for converting standard spray nozzles to high-efficiency spray nozzles to reduce overspray and runoff.
- **Spray Bodies or Rotor Sprinklers with Pressure Regulation and/or Check Valves:** Rebate is for replacing standard sprinkler bodies or rotor sprinklers with those that contain pressure regulation and/or check valves to reduce leaks.

Advanced metering infrastructure: Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) is an integrated system of smart meters, communications networks, and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and customers. The idea behind these “smart meters” is to let residents know in real time how much water they’re using, and thereby encourage conservation behaviors. They can also send alerts to customers when a leak is detected, reducing the amount of time it normally takes to detect a leak and thereby saving water. Currently, the District is funding several pilot projects (through the District’s Innovative Conservation Grant Program) with local water retailers, including City of Palo Alto, San Jose Water Co., City of Mountain View, and Purissima Hills Water District.