

March 25, 2021

Kristen Yasukawa
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RE: SCVWD 2018 Water Conservation Research Grant – Extension Request
Beyond Leak Detection: Evaluating Water Conservation and Leak Notification Benefits of “Smart Home” Devices

Dear Ms. Yasukawa:

I’m writing to request an extension for our 2018 Water Conservation Research Grant from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The extension will not change the overall budget or any specific line items.

As detailed in our 2019 and 2020 quarterly reports, the onset of COVID and the corresponding Shelter-in-Place orders, combined with installation challenges from Buoy Labs, one of the selected leak detection device manufacturers, led to a delay in the installation of some of the study’s leak detection devices. The delays around the installation of the Buoy Leak Detection devices were largely due to internal challenges that Buoy was facing that limited their availability to devote to this project. As a result, in July of 2019, WaterNow and Buoy Labs agreed to halt all incomplete installations and switch the remaining devices required for this research grant to the other device manufacturer, Flo by Moen. WaterNow and the participating cities quickly moved to recruit new participants to fill all but one of the remaining treatment group vacancies¹ and began the project’s 12-month monitoring period on April 1, 2020.

The monitoring period will continue through March 31, 2021. Initially it was estimated that after the monitoring period concludes, the participating cities would need one and a half to two months to provide WaterNow with water use data to be analyzed and included in the final report. However, three of the four participating cities read meters and bill on a bi-monthly basis, and with their current meter read schedules, it will likely take them 2 months – until June 2021 – to capture all participants’ water use through March 31, 2021. Extending the grant deadline will enable WaterNow sufficient time to gather all of the necessary data, and include water use through the full 12-month monitoring period into the analysis summarized in the draft report and final report. It will also ensure that WaterNow is able to fully respond to any questions or comments that may arise from the review of the report by Valley Water’s subject matter experts.

¹ As of March 17, 2020, all but one of the devices had been installed. On March 16, 2020, the Santa Clara County Health Officer issued a Shelter in Place order. As a result, and due to the uncertain nature of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic through the summer and fall of 2020, the final installation did not take place.

An updated Project Schedule and Budget is provided below. Please note that there are no proposed changes to the cost of this project.

Water Conservation Research Project Schedule & Budget					
Clarify steps, timeline, and costs of project for the review panel. Tasks can be general categories such as “experimental site selection, data analysis, etc.” or more specific					
Task #	Task Description	Total Estimated Cost of Task	Grant Funding Requested	Planned Start Date	Planned Completion Date
Phase I: Pre-Installation Tasks					
1	Execute Agreement with SCVWD	\$1,038	\$779	5/9/18	6/30/18
2	Select Partner Agencies with BAWSCA	\$1,779	\$1,335	7/1/18	9/30/18
3	Identify Installation Contractors	\$576	\$432	7/1/18	9/30/18
4	Identify Ideal Participant Pool	\$1,151	\$863	10/1/18	10/15/18
5	Recruit Participants	\$3,682	\$2,762	10/1/18	2/28/20
6	Identify Control Group Households	\$1,527	\$1,145	10/1/18	2/28/20
Phase II: Device Installation					
7	Purchase Devices and Oversee Installation	\$34,630	\$25,970	10/1/18	3/17/20
8	Develop Historical Baseline Metrics	\$461	\$346	11/1/18	3/17/20
Phase III: Post-Installation Tasks					
9	Monitoring and Data Collection	\$9,036	\$6,777	4/1/20	4/31/21
10	Review and Analysis of Data	\$7,345	\$5,509	4/1/20	4/31/21
11	Reporting Quarterly	\$1,381	\$1,036	7/1/18	5/15/21
12	Draft Final Report	\$3,025	\$2,269	4/1/21	6/31/21
13	Final Report	\$1,036	\$777	6/1/21	9/30/21
Total		\$66,667	\$50,000	5/9/18	6/30/22

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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