

Agenda Report

DATE: December 9, 2002

TO: City Council
THROUGH: Municipal Services Committee

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Authorization to Participate in Co-Sponsored Water Conservation Programs with the Metropolitan Water District (MWD); and Authorization to Accept a Department of Water Resources Grant

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute agreements with the MWD as needed to implement the following MWD co-sponsored residential water conservation programs: 1) High Efficiency Clothes Washers, and 2) Evapotranspiration Landscape Irrigation Controllers.
2. Authorize the City Manager to amend the existing Ultra Low Flow Toilet (ULFT) residential water conservation program agreement with MWD to include the Dual-Flush Toilet Program.
3. Certify that the demand-side water management programs authorized in Item 1 above are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21084, in accordance with Title 14 of the California Administrative Code Sections 15301 and 15304, and hereby authorize the City Manager to execute, and the City Clerk to file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk.
4. Adopt a resolution to: a) authorize PWP to submit a grant application to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the direct installation of zero consumption urinals at PWP commercial customer sites; b) authorize PWP to accept approved grant application funds; c) designate PWP's General Manager as the authorized representative to sign a funding contract with DWR; and d) designate PWP's General Manager to approve Partial Payment Estimates.

BACKGROUND

PWP promotes water conservation programs to encourage the efficient use of water by its residential and business customers. Many of the programs offer rebates, funded by MWD, to reimburse customers for expenses they incur by installing such devices as waterless urinals and ultra-low-volume toilets. PWP currently offers various programs to commercial customers. One program is available to residential customers. PWP proposes to enter into new agreements with MWD to cosponsor additional residential programs.

Existing Residential Water Conservation Programs

For residential customers, PWP currently offers rebates for Ultra Low Flow Toilets (ULFT) through an existing co-sponsored agreement with MWD. PWP is providing a \$60 rebate to its residential water customers who purchase and install ULFTs. PWP is then reimbursed by MWD. Rebates are limited to two toilets and 100% funding is from MWD.

New Programs for Residential Customers:

PWP would like to offer the following programs:

Residential High Efficiency Clothes Washer (HECW) – residential customers would receive a rebate for the purchase and installation of an approved High Efficiency (HE) washing machine. The HE clothes washer must have a “water factor” of less than 11.0 (water factor is defined as gallons per cycle). State-of-the-art HE clothes washers use up to 50% less water. HE clothes washers cost approximately 40% more than similar conventional clothes washers and the annual average water savings is 7,000 gallons per residence. It is anticipated that up to 1000 customers could apply and receive rebates. Under the program, customers would receive a \$100 rebate from PWP, which would be reimbursed by MWD.

Dual-Flush Toilets. – Customers would receive a rebate for the purchase and installation of dual-flush toilet. The dual-flush toilet operates at 1.6 gallons per flush for solids and 0.8 gallons per flush for liquids. This type of water-efficient toilet is common in other countries and recently was approved for sale in the United States. These toilets have two levers, one lever to flush for liquids and the other for solids. The liquid-lever option uses half the water used in today's standard low-flush toilet. The average cost for a dual-flush toilet is \$200, with

average additional water savings measured at 2,250 gallons per year per toilet. Under the program, customers would receive an \$80 rebate from PWP, which would be reimbursed by MWD. Participation by PWP would require amending the existing ULFT co-sponsored MWD agreement.

Evapotranspiration (ET) Landscape Irrigation Controllers - Residential customers would receive a rebate for the purchase and installation of a high-tech irrigation controller. This specific controller connects the real-time information collected by weather stations and sensors to accurately provide irrigation control on the ground. Each electronic controller contains extensive information on soil types, landscape slopes, plant materials, and sprinkler application rates. This allows the controller to apply the irrigation water required to make up for the lost ET (the rate at which plants lose water through evaporation and transpiration) while minimizing losses due to runoff. The average installed cost of an ET controller is approximately \$550, and studies have found an average water savings of 13,500 gallons per location. A \$65 rebate would be available from PWP, and reimbursed by MWD.

The City's Environmental Administrator has confirmed MWD's assertion that the programs fall under two categorical exemptions of the state California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21084, in accordance with Title 14 of the California Administrative Code Sections Class 1, Section 15301 and Class 4, Section 15304. The proposed action involves the funding and minor alterations of existing private or public facilities, along with minor modifications (e.g., new landscaping and supporting irrigation system) in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature scenic trees. These activities associated with the Conservation Credits Program would result in negligible expansion of use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment.

Existing Commercial Water Conservation Programs Funded Through MWD

PWP is proposing no change in the following programs available to commercial customers:

Commercial Coin-Card Operated High Efficiency Clothes Washers (HECW) – PWP makes available a \$250 rebate to commercial electric customers for each coin-card operated High Efficiency (HE) clothes washer they install. Modern HE clothes washers use up to 50% less water and 40% less energy. The annual water savings per washer is estimated at more than 150,000 gallons. The rebate only applies for HE clothes washers that have a water factor less than 11.0.

Pre-Rinse Kitchen Sprayers – A \$50 rebate is available to commercial water customers who purchase and install water saving Pre-Rinse Kitchen Sprayers. Estimated annual savings per kitchen sprayer is 75,000 gallons.

Ultra Low Flow Toilets (ULFTs) –Commercial water customers who purchase and install water saving ULFTs and urinals (including waterless technology) may receive a \$120 rebate. The rebate is only available for replacing a non-ULFT device. Typical savings are estimated at 30-50 gallons per day.

Cooling Tower Connectivity Controllers – A \$500 rebate is available to commercial customers who install this technology within their cooling system. With proper management, the estimated savings average 800,000 gallons annually.

Hospital X-Ray Film Processor Recirculating System – A \$2,000 rebate per unit is available for the purchase and installation of this system. Existing x-ray processing systems in hospitals consume extremely large amounts of water and are very inefficient in their film washing process. These systems are “once-through” flow technology. The new recirculating system utilizes a reservoir, treatment and pump system to re-use the water. The average cost of the x-ray film processing recirculating system is approximately \$4,000 and annual water savings for a typical hospital is 3.2 acre-feet per year per system.

Water Pressurized Broom – This device replaces traditional hose nozzles used to clean large hardscape surface areas at commercial and industrial facilities. It uses a series of small nozzles to direct multiple high-intensity water sprays in front of the “broom”. The average cost of the pressurized broom is approximately \$200, and a \$100 rebate per unit is available. The annual savings per pressurized water broom can average 60 percent, or approximately 50,000 gallons per year per location, based upon an MWD pilot program in the City of Anaheim.

Proposition 13 Department of Water Resources Grant:

In February 2002, PWP submitted a grant proposal for funds available under Proposition 13 for the installation of 1,000 zero consumption urinals at no cost to PWP commercial customers. Tentatively, PWP has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the DWR, pending council authorization to accept the grant funds and contingent upon completing the remaining grant criteria. MWD will also be contributing \$60 per installation to cover administrative costs. Before the State can disburse grant funds, the following must be satisfied:

1) adopt a resolution designating an officer to sign a funding contract with DWR, and designating a person to approve partial payment estimates; 2) execute a funding contract with DWR; 3) submit an Initial Budget and Expenditure Summary (DWR Form 4135); 4) submit the amended Urban Water Management Plan; 5) conduct a public meeting to determine community support, at which public comments and questions are received and answered; and 6) transmit to the State a legal opinion on why an election is not required. The Amended Urban Water Management Plan has been submitted to DWR for their approval. The legal opinion on why an election is not required is currently under review with the City Attorney's office.


Under this program, customers who choose to participate will receive a 100% rebate for a standard urinal retrofit by PWP. A PWP authorized contractor will install the units and PWP will incur the cost of any needed permit fees for these installations. The target market will focus on those with pre-1992 or higher consumption urinals. Installation will be done by Pasadena plumbers who retain a G36 license and Pasadena business license; and who attend a certification workshop. All commercial customers are eligible on a first-come first-served basis.

Zero consumption urinals use a chemical barrier in place of water. The fixtures are designed to promote downward gravity flow and are cleaned similar to water fixtures. It is estimated that each fixture saves approximately 35,000 gallons of water annually. PWP has already installed 346 units, primarily at city facilities, but also at some customer sites.

FISCAL IMPACT

All rebates associated with the aforementioned water conservation programs paid by PWP are reimbursed by MWD. Sufficient funds for administering these water conservation programs by PWP staff are included in the approved 2003 Fiscal Year budget for the Water Fund, Utility Rebates, Account 8176.

Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by:

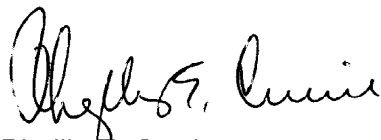


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