

# Authorization to Implement New Conservation Program Initiatives

Water Planning and Stewardship Committee  
September 9, 2013  
Item 8-3

# Conservation Program Background

- Regional rebate program: SoCal Water\$mart
- MWD-funded / MA administered program
- Water Savings Incentive Program



# Conservation Incentive Calculation

- Gather data on device water savings
- Consider average lifetime of device
- Calculate total based on \$195 per acre-foot of water saved
- Compare to average device cost
- Seek Board approval for incentive

# Overview of Actions

- New programs/devices
- Turf removal program
- Commercial/multi-family high-efficiency toilets
- New policy for conservation of recycled water
- Program flexibility



# New Programs: Public Agency Landscape Program

- Target public agencies, like schools, cities, etc.
- High potential for water savings
- Raises water-use efficiency awareness in general public
- No-cost landscape audit
- Up-front enhanced incentives

# New Program: Fitness Center Program

- Based on research
- High device usage
- Increased incentives for:
  - High-Efficiency Toilets
  - Ultra-Low-Water Use Urinals
- Standard incentive for other items:
  - Cooling Towers
  - Landscape Devices

# Turf Removal Program

- Maintain incentive of \$1/square foot
  - Continue to seek grant funding
- Allow member agency flexibility
  - SoCal Water\$mart
  - Member agency programs



# New Devices

- Soil moisture sensor system
- Plumbing flow control valve
- Rain barrels
  - Limited pilot





# Commercial and Multi-Family High-Efficiency Toilets

- Current policy: high-efficiency toilet incentives end June 30, 2014
- New policy: continue providing incentives
- Untapped market in these sectors
- Run through regional program



# Conservation of Recycled Water

- Current policy: eligibility requires checking each project on a case-by-case basis
- New policy: all sites are eligible
  - Regional Commercial Rebate Program
  - Water Savings Incentive Program
- Streamlines administration of programs
- Member agencies can opt out
  - For all projects
  - Case-by case basis



# Program Flexibility

- Administrative authority to adjust programs within \$195 per acre-foot
- Anything exceeding \$195/AF would go to Board for approval
- All programs will be managed within approved budget

# Summary

- Increase program activity and water savings
- Increase water-use efficiency in specific sectors
- Maintain focus on landscape water-use efficiency
- Add new incentives
- Simplify administration

# Options

## ● Option #1

- Adopt the CEQA determination that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA
- Authorize new conservation Program initiatives effective October 1, 2013
- Authorize new policy on providing Conservation Credits Program funding to projects conserving recycled water

## ● Option #2

- Take no action

# Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

