

Conservation and Local Resources Committee

Item #4c

Subject: Follow up on the AWE Peer Review Recommendations

Purpose: Inform the board what Metropolitan staff is doing after the AWE Peer Review recommendations

Conservation and Local Resources Committee

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Follow up on the AWE Peer Review Recommendations



Follow up on the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) Peer Review Recommendations

Conservation and Local Resources Committee
Item 4c
November 14, 2017

Alliance *for* Water Efficiency (AWE)

The Alliance *for* Water Efficiency is a stakeholder-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water



Goal of the Peer Review Project

Perform a high-level review of Metropolitan's water conservation programs and offer recommendations on how to make the programs more effective

Peer Review Team

- **Erin Morey**, New York City Dept of Environmental Protection, NY
- **Doug Bennett**, Southern Nevada Water Authority, NV
- **Karen Guz**, San Antonio Water System, TX
- **Kathy Nguyen**, Cobb County Water System, GA
- **Carol Ward-Morris**, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, AZ

- **Peter Mayer, Bill Gauley, and Mary Ann Dickinson**

Member Agencies Contributing to the Peer Review

- Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Municipal Water District of Orange County
- City of Beverly Hills
- Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Timeline of the Peer Review Project

Oct 25,
2016

- Peer review overview to IRP committee

Jan 26-27,
2017

- Peer review site visit
 - Meeting with Metropolitan staff
 - Meeting with 6 Member Agencies staff

Apr 25,
2017

- Peer review final recommendations to C&LR committee

Peer Review Summary Comments

- Peer review is based on a brief window of insight
- The exceptional challenges faced during a drought crisis led to this peer review
- The Peer Review Team found:
 - *Metropolitan's water conservation programs were exceptional, far reaching, and innovative particularly given the enormous service area and limited staff resources.*

1 Evaluate and Increase the Base Conservation Rate of \$195/AF

- 💧 Pilot market-based incentive for residential and multi-family customers based on half the average purchase price
- 💧 Expand Public Agency Landscape Program
 - 💧 Add plumbing devices to the program
- 💧 Expand eligible projects for member agency managed programs to go beyond the \$195/AF

💧 Subject to Board Review

2 Improve and Expand Conservation Research

- Research Framework
 - Program development
 - Program process analysis
 - Program outcomes
 - Policy integration

2 Improve and Expand Conservation Research (Cont)

- Program Development
 - Dipper well study
 - Pressure regulation with
 - Cooling tower studies
- Program Process Analysis
 - Residential end use analysis study
- Program Outcomes
 - Turf removal savings and multiplier study
- Policy Integration



3 Develop a Comprehensive Educational Effort

- 💧 Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL)
 - 💧 Professional landscaper certification
 - 💧 Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense approved
- 💧 Landscape design assistance
 - 💧 Developing incentive to assist at the member and retail agency level
- 🍷 Landscape publications
 - 🍷 *California Friendly* maintenance guide
 - 🍷 *SoCal Yard Transformation*

💧 Subject to Board Review

3 Develop a Comprehensive Educational Effort (Cont.)

- 💧 Working on development of program to support agencies implementation of the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO)
- 💧 Incorporating class participation in Pilot Landscape Transformation Program

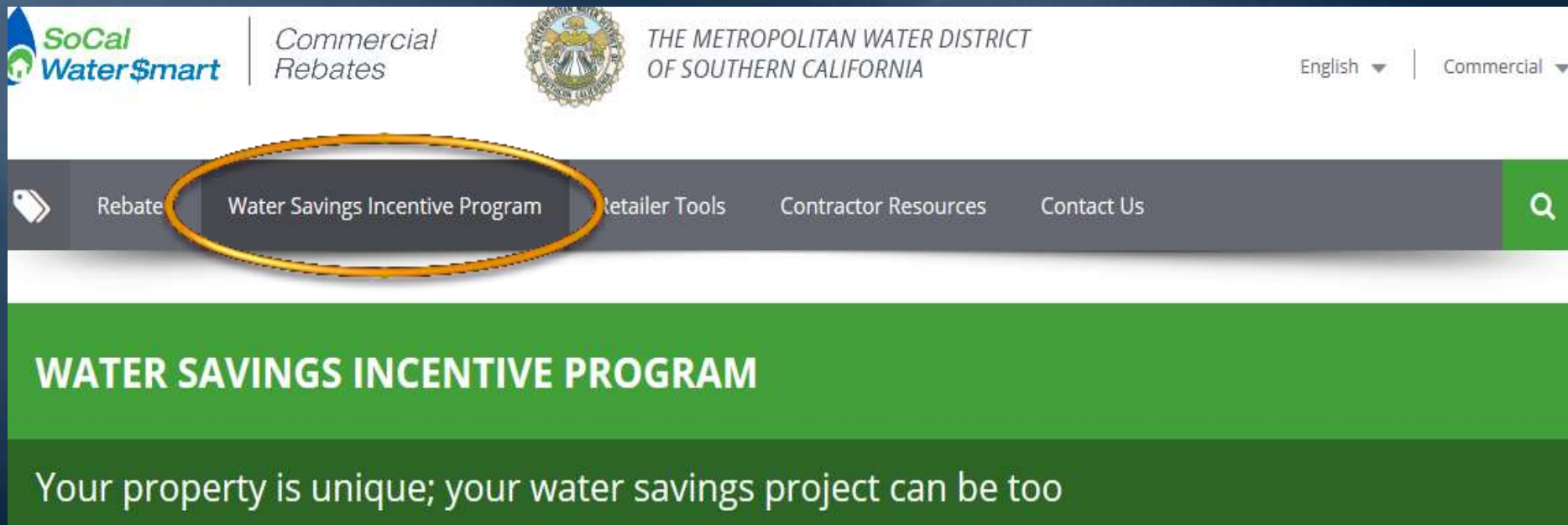


4 Reinstall Turf Removal Program

- 💧 Fixed annual budget
 - 💧 Residential and Commercial
 - 💧 Limit on square footage per applicant
 - 💧 Watershed approach
- 💧 Subject to Board Review

5 Expand the Water Savings Incentive Program

- Minimum 1 million gallon per year threshold
- Water Saving Incentive Program is now on-line application through our regional SoCal Water\$mart portal



The screenshot displays the website for the SoCal Water\$mart Commercial Rebates program. The header includes the SoCal Water\$mart logo, the text "Commercial Rebates", the official seal of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the text "THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA". There are also language and category dropdown menus for "English" and "Commercial". The navigation menu, located below the header, contains several items: "Rebate", "Water Savings Incentive Program", "Retailer Tools", "Contractor Resources", and "Contact Us". The "Water Savings Incentive Program" item is highlighted with a yellow oval. Below the navigation menu is a green banner with the text "WATER SAVINGS INCENTIVE PROGRAM". At the bottom of the banner, it says "Your property is unique; your water savings project can be too".

SoCal Water\$mart | Commercial Rebates | THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | English | Commercial

Rebate | **Water Savings Incentive Program** | Retailer Tools | Contractor Resources | Contact Us

WATER SAVINGS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Your property is unique; your water savings project can be too

6 Re-start Member Agency Program Advisory Committee (PAC)

- PAC Meetings of 2017
 - August 10th
 - August 23rd
 - September 19th
 - October 21st
 - November 30th
- Approximately 25 member and retail agencies

7 Before Eliminating Rebates Work with MA's on Sunset Date and Final Promotion

- Metropolitan Residential End Use and Saturation Study
 - Data will help determine what (if any) rebates could be sunset and when to do it.
 - Metropolitan will work with PAC on final promotion



● Subject to Board Review

8 Continue the Regional and Member Agency Administered (MAA) Program

- Expanded the Regional Program to include WSIP
- Encourage development of innovative local programs through Member Agency Administered (MAA) Program
 - Potential increase in MAA funding allocation
 - Opening up program eligibility guidelines to include projects not linked to the base incentive rate
 - Design services
 - Demonstration gardens

● Subject to Board Review

9 Consider Additional Staffing for Water Conservation

- New landscape position
- Management has re-assigned staff within Water Resources Management to the Water Efficiency Team
- Moving WSIP on-line will help free up existing staff resources

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Continue Metropolitan's Role in Development of Codes and Standards and Legislation

- Metropolitan is member of American Society of Mechanical Engineers A112 Committee on Plumbing Material and Equipment
 - Numerous sub-committees participate in under A112 on waterless urinals, showerheads, high efficiency toilets
- Conservation staff works closely with legislative staff on proposed and future potential legislation

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Target Metropolitan Conservation Programs to Both Disadvantaged Customers and High Water Users

- Disadvantaged Customers

- Partnership with Southern California Gas offering direct installation of high efficiency clothes washers
- Working with San Diego County Water Authority and San Diego Gas & Electric on similar program

- High Water Users

- Public Agency Landscape Program offers higher incentives for irrigation improvements in public areas - proposed addition of plumbing fixtures to this program
- Southern California Gas *Restaurant Refresh Program*

● Subject to Board Review

Peer Review Recommendations



Next Steps

- Continue working with the PAC
- Refine comprehensive research program and comprehensive landscape program
- Continue refining new proposed programs for board consideration in the Spring 2018

