



Progress Report on Findings: 2016 Conservation Program Peer Review

Conservation and Local Resources Committee
Item 4b
March 12, 2019

Background

- Metropolitan initiated an external review of the Conservation programs in 2016
- Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) convened a Peer Review Team
- AWE presented findings to Conservation and Local Resources Committee in May 2017
- Prior update provided to committee in November 2017

Peer Review Team Recommendations

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Consensus Recommendations

Peer Review Team

- Southern Nevada Water Authority
- San Antonio Water System (Texas)
- New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- Cobb County Water System (Georgia)
- Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

Overall Summary of Findings

A Peer Review of the Conservation Programs of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

May 2017



Alliance for Water Efficiency
33 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2275
Chicago, Illinois 60602
www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org

“...Metropolitan’s water conservation programs are **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

- Increased incentive for specific programs with board approval
 - Turf Replacement Program
 - Rain Barrel Rebate
 - Multi-Family Pre-1994 - Regional Pilot
- Member Agency Administered Program Funding
 - 25% flexible spending
 - Additional flexibility included for Disadvantaged Communities Program

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Improve and Expand Conservation Research

- Turf removal water saving/multiplier analysis
- Analysis of consumer survey responses
- Pilot saturation studies
- Partnering with outside agencies
- Innovative Conservation Program
 - Awarded 12 projects during 2018 cycle
 - Funded in partnership with multiple agencies

3

Develop a Comprehensive Education Effort

- Offering both Turf Replacement and Model Water Efficient Landscape (MWEL) Workshops
- Partnering with SoCal Gas for commercial classes
- Member Agencies can offer workshops/classes



4

Reinstate the Turf Removal Program

- Developed a long-term program
 - Sustainability element, minimum plants, size limits
 - Increased incentive level
- Enhanced online features



5

Expand the Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP)



- Application now online through the regional program
- Contracted services to work with WSIP consumers



6

Restart the Member Agency Program Advisory Committee

- Reconvened the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) in August 2017
- Eight meetings conducted since
- Most recent meeting on March 6



7

Coordinate with Member Agencies to Consider Final Promotion of Rebates Before Elimination

- Will consult Member Agencies as programmatic changes are being considered
- Reviewing data to make programmatic decisions
- Using device activity levels to inform decisions

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Continue Regional and Member Agency Administered Programs



Residential Rebates



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

English | Residential

Rebates Retailer Tools Contractor Resources Contact Us



NEW CRITERIA FOR CLOTHES WASHERS

Clothes washers must meet or exceed the CEE Tier 1 standard to qualify for a rebate.

[LEARN MORE](#)



- Added flexibility to the Member Agency Administered Program

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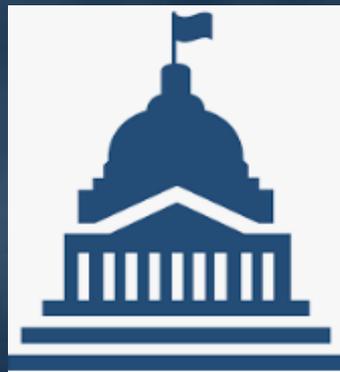
Consider Additional Staffing for Water Conservation

- Water Efficiency Team added new expertise
 - Landscape/Outdoor
 - Commercial, industrial and institutional
 - Budget & finance
- Cross training current staff members for backup on all critical functions
- Flexibility to pull in other staff resources, as needed

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Continue Role in Codes & Standards and Legislation

- Participated in 2019 Association of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) codes and standards meetings
- Actively engaged with the International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)
- Directly drafted and provided review for water efficiency legislation including SB 606 and AB 1668



11

Target Programs to Disadvantaged and High Water Users

- Initiated the Disadvantaged Community Program
 - Regional Pilot Program
 - Member Agency support
 - Grant writing assistance
- Created flexibility for Member Agencies to be able to target disadvantaged and high water users
- Large landscape surveys for residential consumers

PREMIUM HIGH-EFFICIENCY TOILET
MULTI-FAMILY REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

\$250
rebate
per toilet

- Premium high-efficiency toilet must be installed in apartments built **before 1994**
- Mandatory **pre** and **post-inspections**
- **Eligibility restrictions** may apply
- **Funding is limited**

To learn more, visit socalwatersmart.com

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Progress Made on all Recommendations

- ✓ Evaluate and increase the base conservation rate of \$195/AF
- ✓ Improve and expand conservation research
- ✓ Develop a comprehensive education effort
- ✓ Reinstate the Turf Removal Program
- ✓ Expand the Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP)
- ✓ Restart Member Agency Program Advisory Committee (PAC)
- ✓ Coordinate with Member Agencies to consider final promotion of rebates before elimination
- ✓ Continue Regional & Member Agency Administered programs
- ✓ Consider additional staffing for water conservation
- ✓ Continue role in codes & standards, and legislation
- ✓ Target programs to disadvantaged and high water users

Next steps

- ✓ Qualified Water Efficient Landscape (QWEL) certification
- ✓ Utility partnerships
- ✓ Additional research

