



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

FROM: Trish Rhay, Assistant Director of Public Works Services – Infrastructure & Field Operations *TR*
Michelle Tse, Senior Management Analyst *mt*

DATE: May 11, 2015

SUBJECT: CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

ATTACHMENT: None

The Subcommittee has been working with staff to develop water conservation programs during the last several months. There are several initiatives that are being discussed which the Subcommittee will provide additional information to the Commission at the June 2015 meeting. However, there are two programs which the Subcommittee is recommending to move forward at this time. The first program is to supplement the Metropolitan Water District ("MWD") program to increase rebate amounts. The second program is to offer one-on-one coaching sessions about efficient irrigation systems and drought tolerant landscaping. This report provides a brief program overview and describes some of the analysis in developing these two programs.

Additionally, the Subcommittee is requesting the Commission move a formal recommendation to City Council to implement these two programs and allocate \$500,000 of the Capital replacement funds to a new CIP program to fund these programs.

Supplementing the MWD Rebate Program

Currently, MWD provides rebates for water efficient devices and turf removal. Entities such as the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power ("LADWP") and City of Santa Monica ("Santa Monica") supplement MWD's program with additional funding to increase the rebate amounts. The concept is that higher rebate amounts will attract more water customers to participate in the program.

The Conservation Subcommittee and staff discussed supplementing the existing MWD rebate program and came up with the following proposed rebate amounts:

Table 1: Proposed Beverly Hills Rebate Amounts for Water Efficiency Devices

RESIDENTIAL	MWD Base	Proposed Beverly Hills
Washer	\$ 85.00	\$ 300.00
Irrigation Controller	\$ 80.00	\$ 200.00
Rotating Nozzles	\$ 4.00	\$ 8.00
Turf	\$2.00 per sq. ft.	\$3.75 for first 2,500 sq. ft. and \$2 per sq. ft. in excess of 2,500 sq. ft.
Toilets	\$100.00	\$ 150.00
COMMERCIAL	MWD Base	Proposed Beverly Hills
High Efficiency Toilets (Tank Type)	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
High Efficiency Toilets (Flushometer)	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
High Efficiency Toilets (4 Liter)	\$ 145.00	\$ 300.00
Zero and Ultra Low retrofit urinals	\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00

Please note the proposed Beverly Hills rebate amounts include the MWD base amount. For example, the proposed \$300 rebate amount for washers includes the \$85 MWD rebate and an additional \$215 from the City for a total of \$300.

The proposed rebate amounts were formulated based on reviewing the rebate amounts of entities such as LADWP and Santa Monica. The rebate amounts proposed are similar to these neighboring entities.

Although MWD offers rebates for a variety of water efficient devices, the Subcommittee and staff felt that higher rebate amounts should be given towards washers, irrigation devices, turf removal and toilets to achieve the greatest amount of conservation.

One-on-One Coaching Sessions

During the last few months, the Subcommittee and staff have been in discussions with Green Gardens Group (“G3”) about one-on-one coaching sessions. These sessions would consist of a qualified landscape professional conducting home visits and offering personalized consultations on water efficient systems and drought tolerant landscaping. In concept, the customers may be required to pay a portion of the fee with the City partially subsidizing the remaining costs. G3’s preliminary estimate for the initial two-hour consultation is \$225. A possible payment structure could consist of each customer paying \$50 for the consultation and the City subsidizing the remaining \$175 per visit.

Given the urgency to begin conservation efforts, the Subcommittee is recommending \$500,000 from the City’s Water Enterprise Fund be allocated to launch these two programs. The Subcommittee will further elaborate on these programs during the May 11, 2015, Commission Meeting.

Tiered Water Rate Structure Update

The Subcommittee has been working with staff to develop a new tiered water rate structure during the last few months. Given the recent court decision, however, the Subcommittee and staff is working with HF&H Consultants to conduct a penalty surcharge rate evaluation in addition to the tiered water rate evaluation to ensure compliance with State law. The Subcommittee and staff will continue to keep the Commission updated on this effort.