



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

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Agenda Number: L
File ID: 0000

Section Name: Service & Communication
Project ID:

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Authorize the General Manager to approve and execute the Coachella Valley Water District and City of Palm Desert Cost-Share Agreement for Cooperative Turf Rebate Program

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: CONSERVATION, SCOTT BURRITT

**GENERAL MANAGER
RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE**

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the General Manager to approve and execute the Coachella Valley Water District and City of Palm Desert Cost-Share Agreement for Cooperative Turf Rebate Program and subsequent amendments so long as there is no fiscal impact.

BUDGET IMPACT:

N/A

PROCUREMENT METHOD:

N/A

BACKGROUND

The California Governor has proclaimed states of emergency that continue today and exist across all counties of California due to extreme and expanding drought conditions. In response, on May 24, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted Resolution 2022-0018, an emergency regulation that, among other actions, mandated Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) to implement all demand reduction actions identified in CVWD's water shortage contingency plan. Subsequently, on June 14, 2022, Coachella Valley Water District adopted Resolution 2022-28 to comply with the SWRCB emergency regulations in SWRCB Resolution 2022-018.

In recognition of the extreme drought and to encourage their residents, HOA's and businesses to move forward with converting turf to drought tolerant landscaping, while maintaining aesthetics, the City of Palm Desert desired a turf rebate program. On September 15, 2022, the City of Palm Desert approved the implementation of the "Palm Desert Turf Rebate Program" effective September 15, 2022, with an initial budget of \$1 million, of which

\$750,000 was allocated to residents, and \$250,000 as allocated to Commercial/HOA common area projects. The Palm Desert program established an equal match, \$3 per square foot, to CVWD's existing Turf rebate program for any residential applicant, with a cap of 7,500 sq. ft. per project. For Commercial/HOA projects located within the City of Palm Desert the program established a match of \$1 per square foot, with a cap of 15,000 sq. ft. per project. All funding is available on a first come-first served basis.

Turf conversion projects must satisfy existing Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) requirements to be eligible for funds and CVWD will continue to complete pre-conversion and post-conversion inspections prior to disbursing funds. The requirements and processes CVWD has in place for turf conversion projects will not change as a result of this cooperative turf rebate program. To reduce redundancy and make the collaboration as easy as possible for CVWD customers and residents of Palm Desert to access additional funding from Palm Desert, CVWD will receive, review, and approve applications. CVWD will complete pre and post-inspections and share all necessary documentation with City of Palm Desert staff. CVWD will provide the full rebate amount, CVWD's and the City of Palm Desert's contribution, to the applicant and subsequently invoice the City of Palm Desert for reimbursement. CVWD will invoice the City of Palm Desert monthly and the amount will be due within 30 days of CVWD's invoice date.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION:

The Board received an informational report with respect to conservation efforts on March 22, 2022, where the Board directed staff to present at a future meeting possible Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) demand reduction actions that could be adopted. On April 12, 2022, the Board adopted a number of proposed WSCP demand reduction actions, including increasing the turf rebate from \$2 to \$3 per square foot.

The CVWD Board of Directors adopted Resolution 2022-28 on June 14, 2022, that implements all WSCP level 2 demand reduction actions as well as prohibiting the use of potable water for irrigation of non-functional turf at commercial, industrial, and institutional sites as defined by SWRCB. On July 26, 2022, the Board adopted Ordinance 1422.7 that implements drought penalties on consumption over 90% of a customer's tier 2 water budget.

On September 13, 2022, the Board approved an increase to the Conservation Program Payments budget in the amount of \$3 million, bringing the total amount budgeted for these efforts to \$5.85 million for FY22-23.

DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S)/OBJECTIVES(S):

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

This is not a project as defined by CEQA; therefore, approval does not require any CEQA action.

LEGAL REVIEW

Best Best & Krieger

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 - 2022 CVWD & CPD Agreement

Att 2 - PD City Council Agenda - Turf Rebate Program - September 15, 2022

Att 3 - CVWD Res. 2022-28