

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
FROM: DEB LANE, SUSTAINABILITY REPRESENTATIVE –
WATER DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: FIRST AMENDED COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF SONOMA-MENDOCINO IMMEDIATE
DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDING AGREEMENT

AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department that the Board, by motion, approve the First Amended Cooperative Agreement for Implementation of the Sonoma-Mendocino Immediate Drought Relief Project Funding Agreement between the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) and the City of Santa Rosa and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) received grant funding from the State of California to assist in implementing Water Conservation Projects in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties and made these funds available for Water Conservation in Santa Rosa. The original agreement reimbursed the City of Santa Rosa (City) \$286,196 (up to \$422,480 if additional funding was available) for water efficiency rebates already paid from 2014 through 2016. The amended agreement will increase the reimbursement to \$384,309 (up to \$680,926 if additional funding is available) for rebates already paid since 2014.

BACKGROUND

Sonoma Water received grant funding from the State of California to assist in implementing Water Conservation Projects in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. Because funds were not spent by the other water retailers in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, the remainder is being made available to the City of Santa Rosa for water conservation rebates that have been processed after January 1, 2014.

Sonoma Water and the City originally entered into this Agreement on March 11, 2019. Upon realizing that not all the grant funds would be exhausted, Sonoma Water requested and received approval from the State to increase the grant reimbursement amount for the City of Santa Rosa.

The City has a Green Exchange Program providing \$0.50 per square foot of turf removed and replaced with low water use alternatives. During the drought from August 2014 until July 2016, the City's rebate increased to \$1.00 per square foot.

The amended funding agreement with Sonoma Water will increase reimbursement from \$0.3387 per square foot of turf replaced under the City's Green Exchange program to \$0.6831 per square foot. The amended agreement also increases the maximum rebate per residence from \$250 to \$500. Finally, the amended agreement increases the total amount available to Santa Rosa from \$286,196 to \$384,309. The total can be increased up to \$680,926 if more funds are made available. The City has rebated 996,817 sq. ft. of turf removal since 2014 and will easily meet the grant requirements without changing existing programs.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

The Board of Public Utilities, by motion, approved the original contract on March 11, 2019.

ANALYSIS

The Green Exchange Program is one of the City's most popular water efficiency rebate programs. Since the start of the program, the City has incentivized the removal of more than 3.5 million square feet of turf and much of that was done through the drought with over 1.4 million sq. ft. removed since 2014.

This amended funding agreement allows Sonoma Water to pass through grant funds from the State of California to the City of Santa Rosa. These funds are reimbursement for previously issued rebates and would allow the City's Water Efficiency Program to reduce the cost to ratepayers for encouraging water efficiency through the City's Green Exchange Program.

FISCAL IMPACT

This first amended funding agreement will increase reimbursement to the City from \$286,196 to \$384,309 (up to \$680,926 if funds are available) for rebates already paid since 2014.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in

the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – First Amended Cooperative Agreement for Implementation of the Sonoma-Mendocino Immediate Drought Relief Project

CONTACT

Deb Lane, Sustainability Representative

dlane@srcity.org

707-543-4506