

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
FROM: SEAN MCNEIL, WATER EFFICIENCY COORDINATOR
WATER DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION
FUNDING AGREEMENT

AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department that the Board, by Motion, approve the Agreement for Northern Sonoma County Water Conservation Program 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) has received grant funding from the State of California to assist in implementing Water Conservation Projects in Northern Sonoma County and is willing to make these funds available for Water Conservation in Santa Rosa. This agreement will reimburse the City \$116,250 for water efficiency rebates already paid since 2014.

BACKGROUND

Sonoma Water has received grant funding from the State of California to assist in implementing Water Conservation Projects in Northern Sonoma County. The funds were originally dedicated to Northern Sonoma County, but because the communities in Northern Sonoma County were not able to spend all the available funds, the remainder has been made available for the City of Santa Rosa to apply for rebates that are processed after January 1, 2014. The City currently has a Green Exchange Program providing \$0.50/sq. ft. for removing turf and replacing with low water use alternatives. During the drought from August 2014 until July 2016 the rebate increased to \$1.00/sq. ft. Under this funding agreement, the City will receive \$0.375/sq. ft. of turf removed up to a total of \$116,250 which can be increased if more funds are made available. The City has removed 1,430,745 sq. ft. of eligible turf since 2014 and will easily be able to meet the grant requirements without changing any of our existing programs.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

None.

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 sq. ft. of turf and much of that was done through the drought with over 1.4 million sq. ft. removed since 2014.

This funding agreement allows the 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 funding agreement will reimburse the City with \$116,250 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 – Agreement for Northern Sonoma County Water Conservation Program

CONTACT

Sean McNeil
Water Efficiency Coordinator
smcneil@srcity.org
707-543-3938