

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
FROM: SEAN MCNEIL, INTERIM DEPUTY DIRECTOR –
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
WATER DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: 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 Cooperative Agreement for the Sonoma-Mendocino Immediate Drought Relief 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) has received grant funding from the State of California to assist in implementing Water Conservation Projects in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties and is willing to make these funds available for Water Conservation in Santa Rosa. This agreement will reimburse the City \$286,196 for water efficiency rebates already paid since 2014, which can be increased up to \$422,480 if more funds are made available.

BACKGROUND

Sonoma Water has received grant funding from the State of California to assist in implementing Water Conservation Projects in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. The funds were originally dedicated to water retailers in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, but because the available funds were not spent by the other water retailers in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, the remainder has been made available for the City of Santa Rosa to apply for the grant funding for water conservation rebates that have been processed after January 1, 2014. This is a second round of funding provided by Sonoma Water. The previous funding agreement was for the Northern Sonoma County Water Conservation Funding Agreement that the BPU approved on November 1, 2018. 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 under our Green Exchange Program for a total current amount of up to \$286,196, which can be increased up to \$422,480 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 \$286,196 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 – Cooperative Agreement for Implementation of the Sonoma-Mendocino Immediate Drought Relief Project

CONTACT

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