

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS  
FROM: CLAIRE NORDLIE, SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR, WATER  
DEPARTMENT  
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT  
WITH GOLD RIDGE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
FOR EXPANSION OF EXISTING RAINWATER HARVESTING  
REBATE PROGRAM

AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water that the Board of Public Utilities, by motion, approve the First Amendment to the Agreement for Rainwater Catchment Rebate Program Support between Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District and the City of Santa Rosa.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (Gold Ridge RCD) has received grant funds to supplement existing rainwater capture rebate programs throughout Sonoma County. The existing Agreement with Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District for Expansion of Existing Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program (Agreement) provides up to \$20,000 to increase the existing rainwater harvesting rebate offered to Santa Rosa Water customers. The First Amendment to the Agreement would allow Santa Rosa Water to increase the rebate amount and encourage increased participation before the contract end date of September 30, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Since 2009, Santa Rosa Water has offered a rainwater harvesting rebate of \$0.25 per gallon stored which has resulted in the approval of 112 systems for rebates totaling approximately 177,000 gallons of rainwater storage. Gold Ridge RCD subsequently received grant funding through the Department of Water Resources' Proposition 1, North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Program, and the County of Sonoma's Climate Resiliency program to offer rainwater capture rebates to both water utility customers and rural landowners that reside within Gold Ridge RCD's service area. The

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original Agreement stipulated a total rebate of \$0.50 per gallon of stored rainwater, \$0.25 from Gold Ridge RCD and \$0.25 from Santa Rosa Water.

Since the increased rebate was implemented in May 2022, 16 customers have participated in the program for a grant reimbursable amount of \$5,977. The remaining balance of the grant funding is \$14,022, which is available to spend until September 30, 2024. With this large available budget remaining, and less than a year to expend the funding, Santa Rosa Water is seeking to amend the Agreement to allow greater flexibility in the program rebate amount to increase program participation.

In addition to the increased rebate funding, Gold Ridge RCD has partnered with Daily Acts, a local environmental non-profit organization, to offer workshops and hands-on rainwater harvesting installation projects to educate Sonoma County residents about how to install rainwater harvesting projects in their own homes. This technical assistance to customers is crucial to increasing the uptake of rainwater harvesting in our community, as a lack of knowledge is an often-cited barrier to participation in this program.

#### PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

On July 7, 2022, the Board, by motion, approved the Agreement with Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District for Expansion of Existing Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program.

#### ANALYSIS

. The original Agreement stipulated a rebate of \$0.50 per gallon of stored rainwater, \$0.25 from Gold Ridge RCD and \$0.25 from Santa Rosa Water. The First Amendment to the Agreement will increase the total customer rebate to \$1 per gallon of stored rainwater, \$0.75 from Gold Ridge RCD and \$0.25 per gallon from Santa Rosa Water. This increased rebate will be available to customers who participate in Santa Rosa Water's rebate through September 30, 2024, or until the maximum available grant funding of \$20,000 is expended.

Should the Board of Public Utilities approve the First Amendment to the Agreement, Santa Rosa Water's existing rainwater harvesting program would not change except for the increased per gallon rebate. Other stipulations of receiving this funding include Santa Rosa Water's responsibility for quarterly reporting requirements to Gold Ridge RCD. These reports include the property address or APN, rebate amount issued, gallons of water stored for all installed systems and the date of rebate post-inspection. In addition to quarterly reporting, Santa Rosa Water is also committing to market the rainwater harvesting rebate program with the appropriate acknowledgment of the funding provided by the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program as required by the grant, provide regular communication as needed on budget expenditures to Gold Ridge RCD, monitor the rebate program for compliance with the North Coast Integrated

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Regional Water Management Grant Program agreement, and maintain membership in the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership. These requirements are not overly burdensome and are in place already. The First Amendment to the Agreement does not change these requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT

This amendment does not affect the Water Enterprise Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) and 15378 in that there is no possibility that the implementation of this action may have significant effects on the environment, and no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Agreement – Rainwater Catchment Rebate Program Support
- Attachment 2 – First Amendment to Rainwater Catchment Rebate Program Support Agreement
- Exhibit A-1 – Rainwater Harvesting Program

PRESENTER

Claire Nordlie, Sustainability Coordinator