

# STAFF REPORT



ITEM NO. 11  
CITY OF OCEANSIDE

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DATE: September 19, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Water Utilities Department

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT \$180,493 IN GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR A TURF REMOVAL PROGRAM OFFERED THROUGH THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT, TO RE-DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS, AND TO APPROVE CO-FUNDING OF \$77,355 REQUIRED FOR A MATCHING FUND.**

## SYNOPSIS

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the Water Utilities Department to accept \$180,493 in grant funds from the California Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation for a turf removal program offered through the Metropolitan Water District Conservation Incentive Program, and approving the co-funding (city match) of \$77,355 required as a condition of participation in the incentive program; and authorizing the City Manager to act on behalf of the City of Oceanside as signatory to accept grant funding.

## BACKGROUND

In late November 2011, the San Diego County Water Authority notified the local member agencies of a Metropolitan Water District conservation incentive program that would pay up to \$1 per square foot of turf removal and replacement with water efficient landscaping. The program start date was late December 2011 and the completion date was initially set for April 2012. The program requirements included removal of existing live turf (grass) and replacement with planted areas and permeable surfaces. No live turf (grass), synthetic turf or impermeable surfaces were eligible.

Faced with such a short turnaround period for implementation and completion, few agencies were able to identify projects that met the criteria. The City of Oceanside, working with staff in the Sewer and Public Works departments, was able to incorporate turf replacement into three existing projects for city parks and one existing project at the La Salina Wastewater Treatment Plant. In addition, the Ocean Hills Country Club

Homeowner Association completed a turf replacement project on Cannon Road. Total turf removed within the City was 257,848 square feet, which was the most turf removed compared to other San Diego water agencies during this time period.

**ANALYSIS**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) are funding \$0.70 per square foot through grant monies (\$0.41 from USBR plus \$0.29 from DWR) and an additional \$0.30 per square foot contribution is required from the local retail water agency in order to participate in this conservation incentive program. With a total of 257,848 square feet of turf removal, \$180,493 is grant funded by USBR and DWR and \$77,355 is agency co-funded by the Water Utilities Department.

Participating in this program gives the Water Utilities Department an opportunity to test turf conversion incentives in our service area and provides a basis for considering participation in future similar conversion programs.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The Water Utilities Department is seeking authorization to accept these grant funds and appropriate them to revenue account 836128100272.4382 and expenditure account 836128100272.5355. Also requested is approval for co-funding of \$77,355 required from the Water Utilities Department for a city match of \$0.30 per square foot of turf removed. The Water Utilities Department has budgeted \$370,000 for the implementation of conservation programs within the Water Admin and General fund (750010711.5305) which has an available balance of \$532,027. The co-funding will not impact the City's General Fund.

<b>Participant</b>	<b>MWD \$0.70 Share</b>	<b>City \$0.30 Share</b>	<b>Total Incentive</b>
La Salina Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$9,902	\$4,244	\$14,146
Ocean Hills Country Club HOA	\$126,805	\$54,345	\$181,150
Public Works	\$43,788	\$18,766	\$62,553
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$180,493</b>	<b>\$77,355</b>	<b>\$257,849</b>

**COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Utilities Commission will receive an update at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 18, 2012

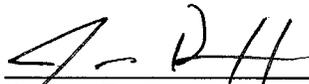
**CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS**

The referenced documents have been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved as to form.

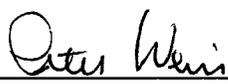
**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the Water Utilities Department to accept \$180,493 in grant funds from the California Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation for a turf removal program offered through the Metropolitan Water District Conservation Incentive Program, authorizing the redistribution of funds to program participants; and approve the co-funding (city match) of \$77,355 required as a condition of participation in the incentive program; and authorizing the City Manager to act on behalf of the City of Oceanside as signatory to accept grant funding.

PREPARED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Dafforn  
Acting Water Utilities Division Manager

SUBMITTED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Weiss  
City Manager

REVIEWED BY:

Michelle Skaggs-Lawrence, Deputy City Manager

Cari Dale, Water Utilities Director

Teri Ferro, Financial Services Director

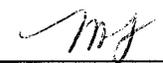
  
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Exhibit A: Resolution

1 RESOLUTION NO.

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
3 OCEANSIDE AUTHORIZING THE WATER UTILITIES  
4 DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT \$180,493 IN GRANT FUNDS  
5 FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER  
6 RESOURCES AND THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF  
7 RECLAMATION FOR A TURF REMOVAL PROGRAM  
8 OFFERED THROUGH THE METROPOLITAN WATER  
9 DISTRICT AND TO RE-DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO PROGRAM  
10 PARTICIPANTS

11 WHEREAS, grant funds from the California Department of Water Resources and the  
12 United States Bureau of Reclamation, are available for turf removal projects that will address  
13 replacement with water efficient landscaping;

14 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Water District is identified as facilitator of grant funding  
15 through the conservation incentive program; and

16 WHEREAS, the City of Oceanside is an eligible applicant for grant funds from the  
17 California Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation, on  
18 behalf of pre-qualified customers having successfully met the requirements of the turf removal  
19 program;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Oceanside does resolve as follows:

21 SECTION 1. The Water Utilities Department is authorized to accept \$180,493 in grant  
22 funds from the California Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of  
23 Reclamation for a turf removal program offered through the Metropolitan Water District  
24 Conservation Incentive Program, and to re-distribute said funds to program participants;

25 SECTION 2. The City Manager or his designee is authorized and directed to act on  
26 behalf of the City of Oceanside as signatory to accept grant funding from the California  
27 Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the project.  
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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Oceanside, California,  
2 this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012, by the following vote

3 AYES:

4 NAYES:

5 ABSENT:

6 ABSTAIN:

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9 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE

10 ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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13 City Clerk

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27 *Andrew Hamilton, ASST.*  
28 City Attorney

27 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE AUTHORIZING THE WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT TO  
28 ACCEPT \$180,493 IN GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE UNITED STATES  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR A TURF REMOVAL PROGRAM OFFERED THROUGH THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT AND TO  
RE-DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

**TURF REMOVAL INCENTIVE**  
**MINIMUM METROPOLITAN AND GRANT AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS**  
**(DWR AGMT 460008311 and USBR AGMT R11AP35314)**

Local turf removal programs must meet the following minimum requirements. Agencies may establish additional eligibility criteria and requirements.

**Program Promotion**

1. Program materials must acknowledge the State and Reclamation's support.

**Eligibility**

2. All property types are eligible.
3. Member agency or retail agency will determine minimum square footage and maximum rebate per site, subject to available funding.
4. Area to be converted must have live turf.

**Conversion Requirements**

5. The converted area cannot include any live turf, synthetic turf, or other turf-looking grasses.
6. All exposed soil must be covered with a minimum 2" layer of mulch, except areas planted with creeping or rooting groundcovers or directly seeded.
7. The area must be permeable to air and water. Weed barriers must be permeable. Concrete, plastic sheeting, and other impermeable surfaces do not qualify.
8. No invasive plant species are used. Invasive plants are identified in the California Invasive Plant Council Don't Plant a Pest Program (<http://www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping/dpp/planttypes.php?region=socal>)
9. Conversions must comply with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions and restrictions.

**Inspection, Verification, and Monitoring**

10. Converted area is subject to inspection and verification by Metropolitan, its contractor, or agent. If the conversion cannot be verified, any funds received from Metropolitan or through the grants must be returned.
11. Converted area must remain in compliance with the conversion requirements for a period of 5 years. If this requirement is violated, the applicant may be required to refund all or a portion of any funds received from Metropolitan or through the grants. This requirement is void upon transfer of ownership.
12. Member agency and retail agency agree to assist Metropolitan in fulfilling the terms of the grants for inspections, verification, monitoring, and reporting. Reporting for a sub-sample of sites may include initial site data, pre and post conversion photos, water use history and post-conversion water use for a period of 5 years.

**Programs Implemented through Regional Vendors**

13. Only property owners may apply.
14. Only one turf removal rebate per address will be issued.
15. Rebate reservations will be valid for 120 days.

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16. Member agency and retail agency will be responsible for reservation and rebate review and approval, inspections, and marketing.