

CITY OF YUBA CITY  
STAFF REPORT

**Date:** June 5, 2018  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council  
**From:** Public Works Department  
**Presentation by:** Diana Langley, Public Works Director

**Summary**

**Subject:** Revision of the Water Rebate Program  
**Recommendation:** Authorize a scope revision of the Water Rebate Program to include WaterSense-Labeled Showerheads and discontinue the High-Efficiency Washing Machine and Pre-Rinse Spray Nozzles (Commercial) rebates.  
**Fiscal Impact:** \$7,500 per Fiscal Year – Account No. 7120-62761 (Water Conservation)

**Purpose:**

To encourage and support water and energy conservation efforts by Yuba City utilities customers.

**Background:**

In July 2014, the City introduced the “Every Drop Counts” campaign in order to educate the community on the importance of water and energy conservation as a response to the ongoing drought. As part of this initiative, the City established a Water Rebate Program and allocated \$25,000 for this purpose. The program provides financial incentives to residents for replacement of non-water efficient items with modern water-efficient models.

<b>Current Rebate Offers</b>	<b>Terms and Conditions</b>
<b>High-Efficiency Toilets</b>	Up to \$100 and two per location
<b>Pre-Rinse Spray Nozzles (Commercial)</b>	Up to \$50 and two per location
<b>Smart Irrigation Timers</b>	Up to 50% or \$75, whichever is less, and one per location
<b>High-Efficiency Washing Machine</b>	Up to \$50 and one per location

To date, we have received 294 rebate applications equaling a total of \$25,154.53.

**Analysis:**

Staff has researched the effectiveness of rebate programs throughout six local agencies and is recommending three revisions to the current program to reflect customer interests and regional standards.

Discontinue the High Efficiency Washing Machine rebate due to the completion of the 2014 DWR Water-Energy Grant and low customer interest. No rebate applications have been received for the 2017/2018 fiscal year. No other local agencies are offering this rebate.

Discontinue the Pre-Rinse Spray Nozzle (Commercial) rebate due to low customer interest in the rebate. No rebate applications have been received for the 2017/2018 fiscal year.

Add a WaterSense-Labeled Showerhead rebate to the program. Showerhead replacement rebates are a small investment for the City with a great amount of potential water savings. Bathrooms are the biggest water users in the home and this cost-effective replacement could save a family an average of 2,700 gallons of water per year.

Proposed Rebate Offers	Terms and Conditions	Budget
WaterSense-Labeled Toilets	Up to \$100 and two per location	Allocate \$5,000
WaterSense-Labeled Showerheads	Up to \$20 and two per location	Allocate \$1,000
WaterSense-Labeled Smart Irrigation Controls	Up to 50% or \$75, whichever is less, and two per location	Allocate \$1,500

**Fiscal Impact:**

Staff estimates a fiscal impact of approximately \$7,500 per fiscal year for customer rebates. There are sufficient funds budgeted in Water Conservation Account No. 7120-62761 for this program.

**Alternatives:**

1. Adopt only some of the recommended program changes.
2. Do not modify the Water Rebate Program.

**Recommendation:**

Authorize a scope revision of the Water Rebate Program to include WaterSense-Labeled Showerheads and discontinue the High-Efficiency Washing Machine and Pre-Rinse Spray Nozzles (Commercial) rebates.

Prepared by:

Submitted by:

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