



CITY OF SAN MATEO

City Hall
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Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 22

Section Name: {{section.name}}

File ID: {{item.tracking_number}}

TO: City Council

FROM: Drew Corbett, City Manager

PREPARED BY: City Manager's Office

MEETING DATE: April 4, 2022

SUBJECT:

Water Conservation Month and “Wyland Mayor’s Challenge for Water Conservation” – Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution to proclaim the month of April as “Water Conservation Month” and to support citywide participation of the “Wyland Mayor’s Challenge for Water Conservation”.

BACKGROUND:

According to the California Department of Water Resources, 2021 was the second driest year in California since 1924, with 2022 likely to set new records for the driest wet season months in State history. Increasing temperatures and prolonged droughts have become more frequent, largely due to climate change. Conserving water by reducing consumption is the most significant tool to preserve water supplies for the immediate future.

The City of San Mateo has continually promoted water conservation through outreach events and rebates. The City of San Mateo partners with Flows to Bay to provide a \$100 rebate for rain barrels. Rain barrels help collect rainwater, reducing the need to use potable water for irrigation while also reducing urban runoff. On November 13, 2021, Flows to Bay hosted a rain barrel distribution event at the City Corporation Yard. San Mateo residents were able to reserve and purchase discounted 50-gallon rain barrels, while also taking advantage of the rain barrel rebate program. To date, 86 residents have participated in the rain barrel rebate program.

Cal Water, San Mateo’s water purveyor, offers rebates for high-efficiency toilets, high-efficiency washing machines, smart irrigation controllers, and high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles. In fall 2021, Cal Water launched a “Lawn-to-Garden” turf replacement rebate program and “Spray-to-Drip” rebate program. The program encourages residents and commercial businesses to remove lawn and transform grass areas into water-wise gardens and landscapes. Drip irrigation uses 20-50% less water than spray irrigation and delivers water directly to the root zone of the plants. On November 13, 2021, the City partnered with Cal Water to host a virtual workshop on “Lawn to Garden Transformations.” This workshop reviewed how to convert your lawn to drought-tolerant landscape, plant an edible garden, and make other changes to transform your outdoor space to use less water.

The City is committed to water conservation and invites our community to take immediate actions to reduce water use. The proposed resolution proclaims the month of April Water Conservation Month and commits the City to participating in the Wyland Mayor’s Challenge for Water Conservation. This annual campaign is a friendly non-profit competition between cities across the country that takes place every April. The competition actively promotes civic participation around water conservation, efficiency and sustainability with eco-friendly prizes for participating residents and local charities. The City will highlight conservation tools and strategies in City communications for the month of April, including through social media, City e-news, and collateral at the City libraries, community centers, and Senior Center.

BUDGET IMPACT:

There is no budget impact for adopting this resolution or participating in the Wyland Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

This resolution is not a project subject to CEQA, because it can be seen with certainty that it will not cause a physical change in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065.)

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 – Proposed Resolution

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