

# Water Efficiency Incentive Program

*Grant Applicant:*



## **South Coast Water District**

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### Mandatory Federal Forms

The following were submitted via [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov): SF- 424 Application for Federal Assistance, SF-424C Budget Information - Construction Programs, SF-424D Assurances – Construction Programs, SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, Certification Regarding Lobbying, Project Abstract Summary, Project Narrative Attachment Form, and Budget Narrative Attachment Form. Signed Federal forms are uploaded to the Project Narrative Attachments form.

### Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

#### Executive Summary

**Date:** January 12, 2024; **Applicant:** South Coast Water District; **Program Manager:** Mr. Eric Lenz; **City, County, State:** Laguna Beach, Orange County, California.

**Please indicate whether you are a Category A applicant or Category B applicant.**

Per the NOFO Section C.1. Eligible Applicants, the District is a Category A applicant.

**A short paragraph project summary that provides the project location, a brief description of the work, any partners involved, expected benefits, how those benefits relate to the water management issues you plan to address and what the planning document and objective the project supports.**

South Coast Water District (SCWD/District), located in coastal southern Orange County (SOC), California, is proposing the Water Efficiency Incentive Program (Program) for water conservation and irrigation efficiency. The Program is seeking funding to expand the existing SCWD Turf Removal Rebate Program by offering rebates for removing high-water use turfgrass landscaping and irrigation and replacing it with water-conserving California Friendly landscapes, synthetic turf, and mulch. This rebate-incentive Program will promote water conservation through the transformation of up to 22,000 square feet (SF) of living turfgrass to California Friendly plants, approximately 15,000 SF of living turfgrass to synthetic turfgrass, and approximately 85,250 SF of mulch application and related irrigation. The Program will focus on single- and multi-family residential and commercial properties throughout the District's service area. The two-year Program addresses the issues of water supply, water quality, and will result in reductions of potable water use, increased irrigation efficiency and uniformity, reductions of dry-weather and stormwater runoff and its associated non-point source pollution, urban groundwater recharge, and reduction of landscape maintenance costs. Collectively, these actions are expected to save more than 5.0 acre-feet per year (AFY). Quality control measures are in place to ensure participants correctly convert their landscape according to the Program terms and conditions. This Program meets the objectives of the District's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) as a key water conservation program and increases water supply reliability for the SOC region, which is approximately 80% reliant on imported water supplies from the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) and State Water Project (SWP, Bay-Delta) to meet demands. Program participants will serve as examples for others to follow throughout the District's service area and regionally. The Program will provide water conservation education, thereby fostering a California Friendly landscape transformation and promoting conservation and environmental stewardship and responsibility for landscape practices throughout the District service area.

**State the length of time and estimated completion date for the proposed project (month/year).**

The length of time to complete the proposed Program is two years, with an expected start date of October 31, 2024 and completion date of October 31, 2026.

**Whether or not the project is located on a Federal facility.**

The Program is not located on a Federal facility.

### Program Location

The District is located along the southern California coastline in Orange County, approximately 60 miles south

of Los Angeles and encompassing an area of approximately 8.3 square miles. The District provides domestic and non-domestic water service to residential, commercial, and institutional customers within the cities of Dana Point, Laguna Beach, and areas of San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente. **Figure 1** presents the area (the entire District service area) where the Program will be implemented. The Program latitude and longitude represent the District offices at 33.50556 N and -117.74279 W. The District is within the service area of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), which provides imported water to the region sourced from the SWP (Bay-Delta) and CRA from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

**Figure 1. SCWD Program Location in Coastal Southern Orange County, California**



### Technical Project Description

**Provide a comprehensive description of the technical aspects of your project, including the scope of work to be accomplished and the approach for the on-the-ground project. This description should provide detailed information about the project materials and equipment including what is currently installed and a description of the upgrade being made.**

This proposal is seeking funding to enhance the District's existing rebate program to provide additional rebate incentives for water conservation through landscape and irrigation transformations to single family residential, multi-family residential, and commercial customers.

The Water Efficiency Incentive Program (Program) is a water conservation program designed to transform turf intensive landscapes requiring potable water supplies for irrigation to California Friendly landscapes through turf removal and replacement with drought-tolerant plants, synthetic turf, or mulch application to reduce irrigation water demand. Turfgrass, typically requiring more than four feet of irrigation water each year, will be removed and replaced by low-water-using California Friendly plants, (which require less than half the water needed by turfgrass), or with synthetic turf (which requires no irrigation water). Existing irrigation must be converted to a low-flow system or capped off to utilize hand watering. Mulch application saves water by reducing evaporative losses, cooling soil, controlling weeds, encouraging infiltration, and preventing stormwater runoff and erosion, and can also provide a barrier to some soilborne diseases that stress plants and increase water requirements.

The proposed Program anticipates converting up to 22,000 SF of living turfgrass to California Friendly plants, converting approximately 15,000 SF of living turfgrass to synthetic turfgrass, and installing approximately

85,200 SF of mulch application and related irrigation. A total water savings of 5.0 acre-feet per year (AFY), or 50 acre-feet (AF) over the 10-year life span of the Program improvements, is estimated based on the anticipated participation. The total Program areas were estimated based on budget and previous turf removal program participation.

The number of participants will vary based on demand and size of individual projects, but based on previous incentive programs, could range from 20 to 40 participants, assuming a mix of larger and smaller projects. This Program allows single-family projects with a cap of 1,000 SF, and multi-family residential and commercial projects with a cap of 5,000 SF per application for California Friendly plants and 17,064 SF per application for mulch. This Program will rebate \$3.00 per SF for turf replacement with California Friendly plants, \$5.00 per SF for turf replacement with synthetic turf, and \$0.46 per square foot for mulch application projects.

Participation in the Program begins with the submission of a project application by a property owner, manager, or designated contractor. The participant will be required to include the following information, as applicable: conversion area measurement; existing irrigation equipment; new irrigation equipment; site plan; meter/account information; water source; landscape material; and site photographs depicting conversion area. The area that will receive a rebate must be 100% permeable. Upon project implementation, SCWD will perform an onsite installation confirmation inspection. Program performance will be based on an evaluation of water use before and after the landscape improvements at selected implementation sites.

### Evaluation Criteria

#### Evaluation Criterion A: Project Benefits (35 points)

**Describe the expected benefits to the applicant's water delivery system. Clearly explain the anticipated water management benefits to the Category A applicant's water supply delivery system and water customers. Consider:**

- **Will the project result in more efficient management of the water supply?**

The Program will result in more efficient management of the water supply by incentivizing water conservation in the District's service area and reducing demand on potable water supplies, including imported water and groundwater used for landscape irrigation. The District's 2020 irrigation demand was 23% of the District's total water consumption. The expected benefits of implementing the Program include 5.0 AFY of water conservation/water savings that will reduce the District's demands on imported water from MWD via MWDOC from the SWP (Bay-Delta) and CRA and the demands on pumping groundwater from the San Juan Basin. The Program will benefit customers by providing cost savings (rebates) to participants who implement efficient landscape measures with the future benefit of lower water bills due to reduced water use. Portions of the service area exist where customers cannot receive recycled water due to infrastructure constraints on extending recycled water deliveries; the Program provides an alternative to receiving recycled water by offering rebates to customers who reduce the current demand on potable water supplies for landscape irrigation. The reduced demand will improve the District's delivery system because the Program's water conservation benefits make the District's delivery system more efficient and better able to meet irrigation demands.

The Program water savings of 5.0 AFY was calculated by assuming 44 gallons per year per SF (gallons/year/SF) for all turf removal water savings; this was based on historic water use data for turf removal landscape conversion in southern California. Synthetic turf without irrigation will save even more water. Since it is estimated that up to 37,000 SF of landscapes will be converted, this results in 1.63 million gallons per year or 5.0 AFY (calculated as follows: 44 gallons/year/SF \* 37,000 SF). Turfgrass removal is given a ten-year lifetime for water savings purposes, so Program lifetime savings would be approximately 50 AF of water conserved. The Program also includes approximately 85,250 SF of mulch application to approved landscape areas; however, water savings from mulch application is not quantified, as the extent to which mulch reduces

irrigation requirements is not well measured.

- **Where any conserved water as a result of the project will go and how it will be used?**

Water conserved as a result of the Program will directly offset imported water from the SWP and CRA.

**Explain the significance of the anticipated water management benefits for the Category A applicant's water delivery system and customers. Consider:**

- **Are customers not currently getting their full water right at certain times of year?**

Customers are currently getting their full water rights throughout the year.

- **Does this project have the potential to prevent lawsuits or water calls?**

This Program does not have the potential to prevent lawsuits or water calls.

- **What are the consequences of not making the improvement?**

The consequences of not making the improvement and not implementing the Program are that up to 5.0 AFY of water will continue to be imported from hundreds of miles away from the use area, requiring significant energy use, transport cost, and increasing vulnerability to interruption.

- **Are customer water restrictions currently required?**

No, customer water restrictions are not currently required. In response to previous drought conditions, SCWD's Board of Directors voted to move to a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage effective May 1, 2022 which prompted the conservation actions from the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan in Appendix H of the District's 2020 UWMP. SCWD's Board of Directors voted on April 13, 2023 to return to a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage. When drought conditions persist, the District will again elevate the Water Supply Shortage Level, prompting additional conservation actions.

- **Other significant concerns that support the need for the project.**

The Program will help to provide reliable water supply, reduce dependency on imported water, meet water demands during all hydrologic conditions (drought resiliency), and maximize potable water use efficiency. Saving 5.0 AFY through Program implementation is significant because 80% of the District's water supply consists of imported water obtained from MWD via MWDOC. The remaining 20% of its demand comes from its one million gallon per day Groundwater Recovery Facility in the San Juan Basin and recycled water. Additionally, the District's 2020 irrigation demand was 23% of the District's total water consumption. The District is limited in the amount of groundwater it can pump each year. Hence, potable water savings from the Program will directly reduce the amount of water imported by up to 5.0 AFY, avoiding annual water diversions from the CRA and SWP (Bay-Delta), allowing water to be conserved for those instream flows.

The Colorado River supply faces current and future imbalances between water supply and demand in the Colorado River Basin due to long term drought conditions. The long-term imbalance in future supply and demand is projected to be approximately 3.2 million AF by the year 2060. Approximately 40 million people rely on the Colorado River and its tributaries. Water conserved because of the Program's implementation represents a decrease in local demand, which would decrease the amount imported by the District through MWDOC and MWD. Thereby, the conserved water will remain at its source, in the Bay-Delta and in the Colorado River, for environmental and other beneficial uses.

**Broader Benefits: Describe the broader benefits that are expected to occur as a result of the project.**

- **Will the project improve broader water supply reliability at sub-basin or basin scale?**

Geographically, the Program will help meet the water supply needs of the District's service area, including the San Juan Basin (Basin) within the San Juan Creek Watershed, and the greater SOC region (known as the SOC Watershed Management Area [WMA]) in Southern California. Locally, the expected geographic scope of the benefits from the Program includes water savings in the District's service area, which consists of the cities of Dana Point, South Laguna Beach, and areas of San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente, comprising a total population of approximately 40,000. However, the impact of water savings reaches far beyond the



population of the District's service area because of the tourist population that soars to over 2 million visitors annually.

Water savings will help reduce the demand on groundwater in the impaired Basin. The District and one other water agency have groundwater rights to the San Juan Basin, which has limited supply because the storage capacity in the basin is small relative to recharge and production. The range of natural yield of the Basin is 7,000 AFY to 11,000 AFY. As such, the Basin is sensitive to drought periods, as demonstrated by recent dry hydrologic conditions that prevented pumping between October 2014 and January 2017. The Basin is in the San Juan Creek Watershed within the SOCWMA, and is governed by the San Juan Basin Authority (SJBA), a Joint Power Agency. By conserving potable water used for irrigation, the Program helps increase water supply reliability among the SJBA by reducing pumping demands on the Basin. The Program also reduces demand on imported water to meet the needs of the SOC WMA region within the San Juan Creek Watershed, which is regionally 80% reliant on imported water. The SOC WMA is included in the Water Quality Control Plan of the San Diego Basin Plan, thereby impacting water management within the San Diego Basin.

The District is also approximately 80% reliant on imported water from MWD and MWDOC for potable water supplies. With nearly 19 million people in MWD's service area, Southern California is heavily reliant on imported water supplies to meet demands. Therefore, on a regional level, since water saved within the District's service area results in less water imported to the region of SOC, the geographic scope of the benefits expands to the larger Orange County area, including MWDOC's service area and subsequently MWD's service area in southern California which relies on the CRA and SWP for imported water supplies. Frequent tension over the water in the Colorado River Basin due to limited supplies and high demand makes any reduction in demand from the Basin significant. The Program provides water savings for the entire District service area, the San Juan Basin, and the San Juan Creek Watershed. Any reduction in water demand results in reduced demand on imported water for the SOC WMA, including the MWDOC and MWD service areas by extension.

The Program will also benefit the water supply delivery system by modernizing existing sites to address water reliability and water quality concerns by updating landscaping throughout the service area to be more drought tolerant and permeable and reducing stormwater runoff and erosion. The financial incentives (rebates) and resulting reduced water usage also translates into lower customer water bills. The Program provides an option for customers to save water and money by transforming the existing high-water use grass turf areas into water conserving landscape to save potable water locally in the impaired San Juan Groundwater Basin and regionally in the SWP and CRA, making more water available at the sources for other beneficial uses. The conserved water from the Program will help to address increased water demand with the region's high population growth, the extended periods and harsher drought cycles, climate change issues, and preservation of environmental resources.

- **Will the project increase collaboration/ information sharing among water managers in the region?**

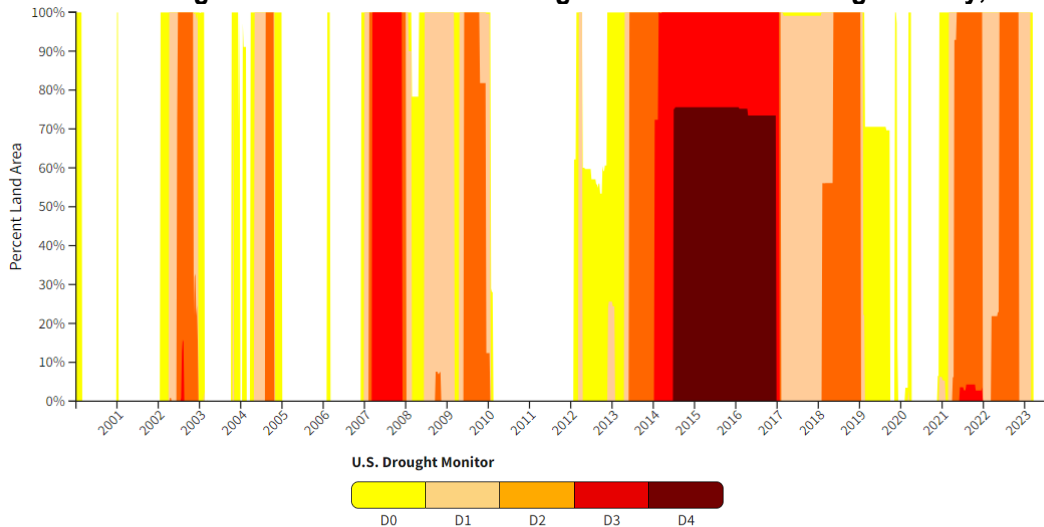
The proposed Program will increase collaboration and information sharing among water managers in the region by sharing Program information and results from the Program with Reclamation and other water agencies in the SOC WMA region who work together to implement larger regional water conservation programs. The Program success will encourage other water districts and agencies to implement similar programs for their customers, adding to the impact of water conservation practices. The District has a cooperative working relationship with members of the SJBA, which oversee groundwater in the San Juan Basin. In addition, the District is a member of the SOCWMA, which is comprised of 26 water districts, cities, the county, and special districts that meet to share about water management projects that meet the water conservation goals of the local watersheds, including San Juan Creek Watershed. Additionally, the proposed Program promotes collaboration within the District's conservation programs by creating partnerships with its customers, such as Homeowners Associations (HOAs), to save water, learn about water efficient landscaping, and ways to save money on irrigation. The Program also builds on the District's established relationship with environmental organizations due to ongoing programs that reduce nonpoint source pollution from entering

local waterways.

- **Is the project in an area that is experiencing, or recently experienced, drought or water scarcity? Will the project help address drought conditions at the sub-basin or basin scale? Please explain.**

Yes, the proposed Program is in South Orange County, an area that has recently suffered from prolonged drought and water scarcity. California faced unmatched drought conditions in 2015/2016 after experiencing the hottest year on record in 2014 and the driest year ever recorded in 2013. Even with the storms of 2020, the U.S. Drought Monitor declared South Orange County, California, in severe to extreme drought in 2022 and 2023 (**Figure 2**), and the same swift return to drought conditions is expected in 2024. Orange County has been categorized as having abnormally dry to exceptional drought conditions approximately 15 out of the last 23 years, affecting 100% of the county's residents.

**Figure 2. U.S. Drought Monitor – Historical Drought Conditions for Orange County, California**



Drought is an ongoing challenge to California and throughout the West. According to data presented by the National Centers for Environmental Information, 7 of the top 15 driest years on record in the last 128 years have occurred in Orange County since 2000. In 2014, California's Governor Brown responded to drought conditions by declaring a State drought emergency. In 2021, California's Governor Newsom again declared a drought state of emergency that expanded to extend throughout all 58 California counties. In recent years, drought conditions have also negatively influenced the amount of imported water that agencies like the District can depend on to meet their customers' water demands. In March 2021, DWR announced a decrease to 5% of requested water supplies from the SWP allocation for the 2021 water year. In December 2021, DWR announced a 0% initial allocation of SWP water for the 2022 year, the lowest initial allocation recorded in its history. In March 2022, DWR announced a 5% allocation of requested supplies following a historically dry January and February, the driest for those months documented in state history. In May 2022, the California State Water Board adopted emergency water conservation regulations focused on urban water use efficiency and conservation. The District must take action to diversify its water supply and implement new sources of local water to reduce demand for increasingly less reliable imported water. This Program will help address drought and water scarcity by reducing the District's irrigation water demand by 5.0 AFY and continuing to educate the community on water conservation techniques that promote water use reductions.

- **Will the project benefit species (e.g., federally threatened or endangered, a federally recognized candidate species, a state listed species, or a species of recreational or economic importance)?**

Locally, the proposed Program will benefit the recovery of federally listed Steelhead Trout in the San Juan Creek by reducing urban runoff and non-point source pollution through better irrigation management.



Statewide, the Program will benefit several federally-listed threatened and endangered species in the San Francisco Bay and San Joaquin Delta ecosystem. These species include the Delta Smelt, Steelhead Trout, and Spring and Winter-Run Chinook Salmon. These species are included in Reclamation's Central Valley Program in California, which evaluates the impacts of the Central Valley Program and SWP on the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Due to the listing of these species and court rulings, southern California's ability to access imported water from the Bay-Delta has been restricted to retain water in the ecosystem to accelerate the recovery of these listed species. Therefore, the Program's reduction on imported water demand for the SOC region further protects species in the Bay-Delta watershed.

- **Will the proposed project positively impact/benefit various sectors and economies within the applicable geographic area (e.g., impacts to agriculture, environment, recreation, and tourism)?**

The proposed Program will provide positive economic impacts to the local landscaping industry, protect the tourism economy, reduce water bills for customers, and protect ecosystems. This will be accomplished by creating more jobs for landscaping companies, ensuring water supply for tourism, providing customer rebates, lowering future water use, and reducing dependence on imported water. The Program will encourage implementation of water conservation projects throughout the District, positively impacting employment and productivity in the landscaping construction industry and reducing future customer water bills. Further, increasing stormwater retention and infiltration will reduce runoff and its associated non-point source pollution in local fresh and marine environments, which are the core of the recreation and tourism industry within the District's coastal service area. Mulch application saves water by reducing evaporative losses, cooling soil, controlling weeds, encouraging infiltration, preventing stormwater runoff and erosion, and can provide a barrier to some soilborne diseases that stress plants and increase water requirements. When mulch is used instead of turf or plants, the use of landscape chemicals is also reduced, which reduces pollution loads and degradation of groundwater and surface water.

The District's service area hosts over 2 million visitors annually due to the significant number of hotels and recreational amenities. The recreational areas of Doheny State Beach Park, the Dana Point Harbor, and other area beaches are heavily visited year-round. Based on the City of Dana Point's Economics of Tourism for Dana Point Report (Chamber of Commerce, 2017) visitors to Dana Point spent \$462 million in 2017, which generated a total of \$569.6 million in total business sales, including indirect and induced impacts. This does not include hotels and resorts in south Laguna Beach, which is also a part of the District's service area. This tourism industry depends on a reliable water supply to meet the needs of their clientele and help support the local economy. Therefore, the Program will provide water supply reliability for tourism by saving 5.0 AFY.

Lastly, the Program will also provide reductions in Greenhouse Gases (GHG) that can be correlated to the energy savings achieved by reducing the energy needed to transport 5.0 AF of imported water annually to the District from other parts of the State. Savings made possible by the Program can be estimated at approximately 6,650 pounds of carbon per year by converting to carbon emissions using a calculation of required energy of 2,500 kilowatt-hours per acre-foot (kWh/AF) of imported water and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions at 0.532 pound of CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh (5.0 AF \* 2,500 kWh/AF \* 0.532 lbs. CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh). The Program helps meet the State's GHG reduction goals by conserving approximately 6,650 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub>/year.

- **Will the project complement work being done in coordination with NRCS in the area?**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) acknowledges that drought, aging infrastructure, and environmental requirements can strain existing resources, and has collaborated with Reclamation through the NRCS's WaterSMART Initiative (WSI) to coordinate investments in priority areas for improving our cumulative impact in water conservation and drought resilience. The Bay-Delta Region is the hub of California's water system, providing approximately two thirds of the state's drinking water (including providing water to the District and to NRCS priority areas in California). Implementing landscape water conservation initiatives with the proposed Program will complement NRCS efforts because it reduces demand from the Bay-Delta; therefore,

the Program helps to increase availability of water in the Bay-Delta region, which is a NRCS priority area. NRCS uses Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and WSI funds to complement Reclamation WaterSMART funded projects by helping eligible farmers and ranchers make improvements that align with the paired WaterSMART project. Although the proposed Program also incentivizes water conservation, the proposed Program would not include on-farm efficiency work that is currently being completed or is anticipated to be completed in the future using NRCS assistance through EQIP or other programs.

#### Evaluation Criterion B: Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (25 points)

**Plan Description and Objectives: Is your project supported by a specific planning document or effort. When was the plan developed? What is the purpose and objective of the plan?**

The District's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) supports the Program by identifying the Program as one of its key water conservation measures. The purpose of the District's 2020 UWMP is to present an evaluation of the District's water reliability over a long-term (20- to 25-year) horizon, while the objective is to provide an assessment of the present and future water supply sources and demands within the District's service area. The UWMP states that in its 5-year capital improvement program, the District plans to expand the Turf Removal Rebate Program, which demonstrates the commitment to implementing the Program. The District's 2020 UWMP includes Chapter 8 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), which identifies the water supply shortage policies MWD and the District have in place to respond to events including catastrophic interruption and reduction in water supply. Currently, the District is primarily reliant on imported water from MWD via MWDOC, with water sourced from the SWP (Bay-Delta) and CRA for its drinking water supply. These supplies are limited due to drought, population growth, and pumping restrictions, and are expected to further decrease over time. The WSCP supports the Program by identifying ways to conserve water and reduce water usage.

The Program helps meet the State's Assembly Bill (AB) 32 goals by reducing GHG emissions because of the reduction in water treatment and delivery from imported water supplies. The Program will avoid GHG emissions by conserving approximately 6,650 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub>/year. The Program also helps to meet the goals of the California Water Plan Update 2018, the South Orange County Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP). Water use efficiency is a main goal in these plans that will enable the region to manage water supplies and resources for future generations. As a member agency, the District is also incorporated into MWDOC's UWMP. The Program supports the District's efforts to achieve MWDOC's Conservation Demand Management Measure and Best Management Practice goals. The Program builds upon the District's current successes in achieving the following: 1) maximizing water conservation by achieving over 20% sustained conservation compared to pre-drought 2014 levels; and 2) maximizing water recycling at a total of approximately 830 AFY or over 13% of the District's overall water demand.

Through water conservation, the proposed Program also implements the SJBA's local Basin 2015 Groundwater Management Plan titled, "Final San Juan Basin Groundwater Management and Facilities Plan December 2013" prepared by the SJBA that identifies conservation to reduce groundwater pumping demands on the Basin. The Program is supported by MWDOC's 2020 UWMP by helping efforts to achieve MWDOC's Conservation Demand Management Measures and Best Management Practice goals. In addition, MWD's 2015 Integrated Resource Plan includes Water Reliability Goals to Maintain CRA Supplies, Stabilize SWP Supplies, and Develop and Protect Local Water Supplies. The Program will provide new potable water supply from water conservation, thereby reducing the demand on imported water from the SWP and CRA currently used to meet potable demands. Finally, the Program implements water conservation measures to help achieve a District's 2017 Infrastructure Master Plan goal for a long-term plan toward water independence.

**Plan Development: Who developed the planning effort? What is the geographic scope of the plan? If the planning effort was not developed by the Applicant, describe the Applicant's involvement.**

The District, the applicant, developed the SCWD 2020 UWMP. The geographic scope of the plan is the

District's service area; an area of approximately 8.3 square miles along the southern California coastline of Orange County and provides water to customers in the city of Dana Point, and parts of the cities of Laguna Beach, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano.

**Support for the Project: Describe how the project is supported by the identified plan. Consider:**

- **Is the project identified specially by name and location in the planning effort?**
- **Is this type of project identified in the planning effort?**
- **Explain whether the proposed project implements a goal, objective, or addresses a need or problem identified in the existing planning effort?**

The District has determined this Program is a priority in its existing planning efforts both by allocating budget for the Program annually and by identifying it as a key measure for water conservation in its 2020 UWMP. The ongoing SCWD Turf Removal Rebate Program began in FY 2010 and has removed over 1.3 million square feet of irrigated turf within the District service area to date, with over 500 participants. The District annually allocates budget for the Turf Removal Rebate Program to reduce water reliance on imported water and support the District in meeting water conservation requirements brought on by drought conditions. Regionally, a similar rebate project was ranked as a priority in the SOC IRWMP, through a project selection process for grant award based on a ranking system that scores a project higher if it provides quantifiable benefits aligned with the IRWMP objectives and strategies. The proposed Program was one of the highest-ranking projects in the IRWMP and is identified as a priority for meeting the objective of "Reduce consumption from outdoor residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes" through the following Strategies: WS-5-S3, Promote use of native and non-native California Friendly plants in urban landscapes, and WS-2-S4, Promote the replacement of non-functional turf grass with California Friendly plantings. These objectives and strategies specifically identify turf replacement and California Friendly planting projects to increase water supply reliability during times of drought. The Program is needed to meet this objective by promoting water use efficiency through incentivizing customers to implement small-scale water conservation projects with rebates to offset project costs. Lastly, the District is implementing the proposed Program to meet future statewide water conservation requirements under the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board's Guidance Handbook, titled "Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life- Primer of 2018 Legislation on Water Conservation and Drought Planning, SB 606 and AB 1668". The requirements specifically target irrigation measures for water conservation, as proposed in the Program.

### **Evaluation Criterion C: Project Implementation (20 points)**

- **Describe the implementation plan for the proposed project. Include an estimated project schedule that shows the proposed work stages/duration, including major tasks, milestones, and dates.**

The Water Efficiency Incentive Program will be implemented through the following tasks:

**Task 1 - Program Administration:** This task includes SCWD salaries/wages for administrative and management efforts for operation of the Program, including finalizing the Program scope, reviewing financial, contractual, reporting, performance monitoring, and reporting for the duration of the work.

**Task 2 - Marketing and Promotion:** SCWD will produce marketing and promotional material to encourage Program participation. The District webpage will be updated to present information regarding Program rules and provide the Program application and rebate levels. Marketing may also consist of bill inserts and outreach to Large Landscape Survey Assessment participants. Program promotional materials will acknowledge Reclamation's funding. Stakeholder outreach will include landscape contractors, property managers, HOA board members, and business owners for educational and promotional purposes.

**Task 3 – Site Inspections:** The turf conversion sites will receive a pre-project and post-project inspection. The pre-project inspection will verify there is currently living turf on the proposed site and the area of turf eligible for the Program. The post-project inspection verifies that the total project area was converted to meet

Program rules (i.e., 100% permeable and low-flow irrigation). The pre-installation verification process will include collecting the following information: site contact information, measure, sector, device cost, rebates paid, installation date, and conversion area. Additional collected information may include irrigation equipment, site plan, landscape material, and site photographs. The District will perform post-project inspections to verify the installation. During site inspections, the following will be performed: 1) walk the site to verify project meets Program rules; 2) measure project area; 3) verify installation of water efficient irrigation for plants; and 4) promote California Friendly landscape irrigation educational classes.

**Task 4 – Rebate Incentives:** Over the grant period, SCWD proposes to facilitate the conversion of approximately 22,000 SF of living turfgrass to California Friendly landscapes; approximately 15,000 SF of living turfgrass to synthetic turfgrass; and approximately 85,250 SF of mulch application by providing rebate incentives to residential property owners and commercial property owners/managers for qualifying conversions. The following rebate amounts are proposed but may vary due to market transformation during Program implementation:

- Turf replacement with California-Friendly plants (\$3.00 per SF);
- Turf replacement with synthetic turf (\$5.00 per SF); and
- Mulch application (\$0.46 per SF).

Rebate incentive amounts will be based on the conversion area. No participant will receive a rebate in an amount higher than eligible project costs. To receive the Program rebate, the completed site conversion must be consistent with the Program rules and intent. Additionally, turf areas must comply with the conversion requirements for fifteen years or the participant may be required to refund all or a portion of rebate funds. Turf conversion qualification criteria include: 1) Bare soil must be covered by mulch and/or groundcover; 2) Site may not include California invasive species; 3) Conversion area should include the entirety of the irrigation zone(s), and must be converted to a low-flow irrigation system or be capped; 4) Conversions that have been started or are already completed are not eligible. Site is required to be inspected before living turf is removed; and 5) Conversions must comply with applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, and restrictions.

**Task 5 – Grant Management and Reporting:** Soto Resources will work closely with the District to negotiate, execute, and manage the agreement with Reclamation. Reporting will be performed on per Agreement requirements, including submittal of Financial Reports, Performance Reports, and Financial Reimbursement Requests using the online ASAP system through the System for Award Management (SAM).

**Program Schedule -** The Program is ready to begin immediately after execution of the agreement with Reclamation. **Table 1** presents the Program schedule.

**Table 1. Water Efficiency Incentive Program Schedule**

Task/Milestone/Activity	Planned Dates	
<i>Estimated Funding Award – October 31, 2024</i>	Start	End
<b>Task 1: Program Administration</b>	<b>10/31/24</b>	<b>10/31/26</b>
Execute and manage the cooperative agreement with Reclamation. Finalize Program forms.		
<b>Task 2: Marketing and Promotion</b>	<b>10/31/24</b>	<b>10/31/26</b>
Incorporate Program on the SCWD Website and promote Program.		
<b>Task 3: Site Inspections</b>	<b>1/17/25</b>	<b>10/31/26</b>
Conduct pre- and post-project site inspections.		
<b>Task 4: Rebate Incentives</b>	<b>1/17/25</b>	<b>10/31/26</b>
Process rebates.		
<b>Task 5: Grant Management and Reporting</b>	<b>10/31/24</b>	<b>10/31/26</b>
Prepare Program Performance Reports and Reimbursement Requests. Prepare Final Report.		

- **Describe any permits and agency approvals that will be required, along with the process and time frame for obtaining such permits or approvals.**

There are no required permits or agency approvals anticipated for the Program.

- **Describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the project.**

There is no engineering or design work required to support the Program.

- **Does the applicant have access to the land where the project is located? Has the applicant obtained easements required for the project?**

As a condition of customers receiving the rebates, the District will be granted access to the site where the conservation improvements will be implemented for pre- and post-implementation site inspections. Easements will not be required for the Program, as it provides rebate incentives for water conservation improvement implementation.

- **Identify whether the applicant has contacted the local Reclamation office to discuss the potential environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements for the project and associated costs. Has a line item been included in the budget for costs associated with compliance?**

Environmental and cultural resources compliance is not shown in the schedule above or in the proposed Program budget since the turf replacement and mulch application will be performed on property that is considered already disturbed. Per email correspondence with Doug McPherson, Environmental Protection Specialist, Reclamation's Southern California Area Office, on March 8, 2021, "we fund projects like this every year using a [National Environmental Policy Act] NEPA Categorical Exclusion...turf replacement projects are nearly always completely benign, with no environmental or cultural resource issues [and are considered] general maintenance of existing landscaping and avoid SHPO consultation under "no potential effect" list #8." Therefore, a Categorical Exclusion under NEPA is anticipated.

#### **Evaluation Criterion D: Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)**

- **Is the proposed project connected to a Reclamation project or activity? If so, how?**

The proposed Program will benefit Reclamation's water supply in the Colorado River through its nexus with the District's Reclamation-funded Doheny Ocean Desalination Project, the Santa Ana Watershed Basin Study, and Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Study by making 5.0 AFY of potable water available through water savings. The Program supports the District's Doheny Ocean Desalination Project via the cooperative agreement with Reclamation's WaterSMART: Desalination Construction Projects under the WIIN Act (executed in 2019). The Desalination Project goal is to reduce dependence on imported water and protect the San Juan Basin groundwater supplies. The proposed Program is connected to this project because it will decrease potable water used for irrigation throughout the District's service area, expanding water use efficiency to protect the San Juan Basin and reduce demand on imported supplies from the CRA and SWP.

The Program also directly supports the Santa Ana Watershed Basin Study adaptation strategies, which is a partnership between the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and Reclamation by reducing demand on imported water and promoting the state's 20 x 2020 Water Conservation Plan. Lastly, the Program will increase the availability of Reclamation's overall water supply in the Colorado River Basin Plan, a multi-year Basin Study to examine supplies and demands for Colorado River water that includes ideas and projects to resolve the supply and demand imbalance, including water conservation. Reclamation manages the Colorado River system. The proposed Program is associated with the Colorado River Basin, and the District purchases approximately 80% of its supply from MWD through MWDOC, which currently relies on imported water from the CRA and the SWP (Bay-Delta) as its primary sources of water. Imported water savings associated with the Program translate to more water remaining in these two fragile systems. The Program benefits Reclamation because it reduces imported water sourced from the Colorado River and northern California; thereby protecting the Colorado River Basin. By reducing the amount of water imported, this water in effect remains in the originating basin or is made available to meet demands in other areas of the State, including



those of Tribal nations.

- **Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or operations and maintenance (O&M) contract with Reclamation?**

No, the applicant does not have a water service, repayment, or O&M contract with Reclamation.

- **If the applicant is not a Reclamation contractor, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means?**

Yes, the District receives Reclamation water from MWD via MWDOC, which currently relies on the CRA and the SWP as its primary sources of water. Reclamation manages the Colorado River system from which MWD imports water as a Reclamation contractor.

- **Will the proposed work benefit a Reclamation Project area or activity?**

The water savings attained will be the result of reduced imports from the Bay-Delta and the Colorado River, thereby impacting the Colorado River Basin, as described above. By reducing the amount of water imported, this water remains in the originating basin or is made available to meet demands in other areas of the State.

### Evaluation Criterion E: Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (15 points)

#### Sub-criterion No. E1. Climate Change

- **Provide specific details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change and help combat the climate crisis.**

- **Does the project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change? Does the project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?**

As identified in Section 3.8 of the 2018 South Orange County IRWMP, changes in hydrological conditions in the SOC region due to climate change include drought, damage to trees, and increased risk of wildfire and erosion. The proposed Program strengthens water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change, especially drought, by providing 5.0 AFY of water savings through water conservation measures. Irrigation water saved results in more water available at the sources for other uses. Due to the arid climate in southern California, the greatest savings will be achieved in the hot summer months through irrigation efficiency. The Program contributes to climate change resiliency by serving as an example of efficiency that can be replicated from user to user, and by water agency to water agency, thereby increasing the capability of future water conservation efforts beyond the District service area. A significant portion of customers who participate in the District's water savings rebate programs will participate in other future programs. MWD has demonstrated that turf conversions induce a multiplier effect, meaning people not participating in the rebate Program will also convert their lawns themselves, achieving additional future water efficiency and conservation. The Program's implemented measures create long term water efficient practices, which will save water during and between times of drought. The Program will also implement the San Juan Basin Optimization Plan to protect local groundwater supplies currently threatened by climate change and drought conditions. By decreasing the demand on potable water supply for irrigation, the Program will ensure more water is available in the basin to help ameliorate threats posed by rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion, and poor water quality to the SOC region's only source of groundwater, the San Juan Basin.

#### Sub-criterion No. E2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

The White House Council on Environmental Quality's interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) was utilized to help identify the disadvantaged communities (DACs) that will benefit from the Program. Although the CEJST does not identify DACs within the District's service area, there are DACs in the SOC region. The District's 2020 UWMP includes water use projections to estimate future demands for lower income households (households earning below 80% of the Median Household Income based on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment [RHNA]). A weighted average of the RHNA projection for each city served by the District was calculated based on the proportion of each city within the District. For example,



approximately 80% of the District's service area lies within Dana Point. Based on the housing elements of the RHNA, the projected housing need for low-income households is 43.6% of total housing needs. Therefore, the area weighted projected allocation for low-income households for Dana Point is 34.9% (80% \* 43.6%). The same procedure is repeated for all cities within the District's service area, which results in an overall projected housing need for low-income households of 44.7% as a percentage of total housing units (Southern California Association of Governments [SCAG], 2021). By applying the percentage of low-income housing from the SCAG report to the total projected residential demand calculated above, low-income demand can be estimated. The District's total low-income single family residential demand is projected to be 1,210 AF in 2025 and 1,156 AF in 2045.

DACs are in Dana Point and San Juan Capistrano, which consist of 6% of the District's service area. The Program will benefit DACs by improving regional water reliability by conserving more than 5.0 AFY of water. In addition, through this Program, participating DAC members are provided monetary assistance (a rebate) for water savings to increase the financial feasibility of implementing such measures. Associated costs and energy required to deliver 5.0 AFY imported water to the District is saved, which results in lower operating costs to the District and its ratepayers, conserves energy, lessening the environmental impacts from GHG and climate change. The District's service area (**Figure 1**) includes the communities of Dana Point, South Laguna, and areas of San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano, which include Hispanic and Latino, and Indigenous communities (Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation) defined as underserved per E.O. 13985. The Program benefits these communities by making water more available throughout the service area, ensuring affordable water is a reliable resource. The Program also benefits underserved communities by reducing the potential for irrigation water limits during drought, reducing dust and allergens, and heat islands that can occur when irrigation from potable supplies is cut back. The District will market the Program via its ongoing outreach to DACs. Many of these projects can beautify landscapes and help mitigate the urban heat island effect by increasing biomass while simultaneously using less water, requiring less maintenance, and reducing water bills.

### Sub-criterion No. E3. Tribal Benefits

- **Does the project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project improve water management for a Tribe?**

No, there are no federally recognized Tribes in Orange County, but Tribes in the Colorado River Basin may benefit from water remaining at the source.

- **Does the proposed project support Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other Tribal benefits?**

The proposed Program supports Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts in that it incentivizes water conservation, making the same amount of water available to Tribes.

- **Does the project support Reclamation's Tribal trust responsibilities or Reclamation activity Tribe?**

The Program supports Reclamation's current efforts, including the 2019 signing of Colorado River Basin drought contingency plan, designed to reduce risks from ongoing drought or supply line interruptions and protect the most important water source in the western U.S. By reducing the amount of water imported, this water in effect, remains in the Colorado River Basin from which it originates or is made available to meet demands in other areas of the State. Any increase in water reliability and greater availability in overall water supply resulting from local water production efforts would also help Reclamation in meeting the Federal Indian trust responsibility, a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation on the part of the U.S. to protect Tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, and resources to the Tribes.

**Program Budget**

The complete Water Efficiency Incentive Program Budget includes a Funding Plan, Budget Proposal, Budget Narrative, and the SF 424 Budget Forms.

**Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment**

Describe how the non-Federal share of project costs will be obtained. Reclamation will use this information in making a determination of financial capability.

The District will fund all non-Reclamation Program costs. Since 2010, the District has allocated budget for the existing Turf Removal Rebate Program, and the FY 24/25 and FY 25/26 budget will fund the District’s cost share for the expanded Water Efficiency Incentive Program. The budget amounts will be included under the District’s Water Conservation Budget Section W120-00 sub section Water Conservation Programs # 60610. This budget is funded annually by a portion of the water service charge, and the water peak demand charge, and interest income.

1. Cost Share Contribution: The District will provide its cost share in monetary (cash) contributions. The Program is included in the District’s budget and is funded by a portion of the water service charge, and the water peak demand charge, and interest income. The District budget will include \$50,000 for FY 24/25 and \$50,000 for FY 25/26.
2. Costs Incurred Before Anticipated Program Start Date: The District does not anticipate pre-award costs.
3. Funding Partners: None.
4. Funding Requests from other Federal Partners: No other Federal partners.
5. Pending Funding Requests: There are no other pending funding requests for the Program.

Table 2 summarizes the funding sources for the Program.

**Table 2. Total Program Cost**

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$100,000
Costs to be paid by the Applicant	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COST</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

**Budget Proposal**

The District will fund 50% of the Water Efficiency Incentive Program (Program) costs (\$100,000), and the District is requesting 50% (\$100,000) of the total Program costs as shown in Table 2. Table 3 provides the Budget Detail by cost categories (Budget Item Description). The Budget Narrative is provided below.

**Table 3. SCWD Water Efficiency Incentive Program Budget\***

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION			Quantity Type	TOTAL COST
	Price/Rate	Unit	Quantity		
<b>SALARIES AND WAGES</b>					
Eric Lenz, Recycled Water/Conservation Supervisor	\$ 74.47	/Hour	50	Hour	\$3,723.50
Recycled Water/Conservation Technician	\$ 50.60	/Hour	120	Hour	\$6,071.50
			<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$9,795.00</b>
<b>FRINGE BENEFITS</b>					
Not Applicable			<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TRAVEL</b>					

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION			Quantity Type	TOTAL COST
	Price/Rate	Unit	Quantity		
Not Applicable			<b>Subtotal</b>		\$ -
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>					
Not Applicable			<b>Subtotal</b>		\$ -
<b>SUPPLIES/MATERIALS</b>					
Not Applicable			<b>Subtotal</b>		\$ -
<b>CONTRACTUAL</b>					
Soto Resources - Grant Reporting	\$185.00	/Hour	54	Hour	\$9,990.00
			<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$9,990.00</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>					
Not Applicable			<b>Subtotal</b>		\$ -
<b>OTHER DIRECT COSTS</b>					
Rebate Programs - CA Friendly Plants	\$ 3.00	/SF	22,000	SF	\$66,000.00
Rebate Programs - Synthetic Turf	\$ 5.00	/SF	15,000	SF	\$75,000.00
Rebate Programs - Mulch	\$ 0.46	/SF	85,250	SF	\$39,215.00
			<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$180,215.00</b>
<b>INDIRECT COSTS</b>					
Not Applicable			<b>Subtotal</b>		\$ -
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT/ACTIVITY COSTS:</b>					<b>\$200,000.00</b>

\*No In-kind contributions or Indirect Costs are included for the Water Efficiency Incentive Program.

## Budget Narrative

### a. Personnel

A total of \$9,795.00 is allocated for this budget category. The Program Manager and other key personnel are identified by name and title below. Their salaries and wages (labor rates separate from the fringe rate) and estimated hours are included below. **Table 4** shows the labor estimates allocated to specific tasks as outlined in the Program description. The labor rates were implemented by the District on July 1, 2023.

The **Program Project Manager is Eric Lenz**. Mr. Lenz is the Recycled Water/Conservation Supervisor for the District. His budgeted time includes a direct labor rate of \$74.47/hour, which does not include fringe benefits. A total of 50 hours at a total cost of \$3,723.50, is estimated to manage and promote the Program over the allotted 2-year timeframe. As shown in **Table 4**, Eric will be involved in the following Tasks:

- Task 1: Program Administration – A total of 30 hours at a rate of \$74.47/hour are allotted to implement the Program.
- Task 2: Marketing and Promotion – A total of 20 hours at a rate of \$74.47/hour are allotted to implement the Program.

The **Technician** for the District will be a **Recycled Water/Conservation Technician**. The budgeted time includes an average direct labor rate of \$ 50.60/hour (\$50.5958 rounded), which does not include fringe benefits, for a total of 120 hours estimated to conduct the pre-project and post-project verification inspections over the allocated 2-year timeframe. The total amount budgeted is \$6,071.50. As shown in **Table 4**, the

Technician will be involved in the following Task:

- Task 3: Site Inspections – A total of 120 hours at an average rate of \$ 50.60/hour are allotted for site verification inspections.

**Table 4. Budget Labor Detail**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Activity &amp; Employee</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Total Costs</b>
Task 1	Program Management <b>Program Manager (Eric Lenz)</b>	30	\$74.47	\$2,234.10
Task 2	Marketing and Promotion <b>Program Manager (Eric Lenz)</b>	20	\$74.47	\$1,489.40
Task 3	Site Inspections <b>Technician</b>	120	\$50.60	\$6,071.50
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 9,795.00</b>

**b. Fringe Benefits**

Fringe benefits are not included in the Program budget.

**c. Travel**

Travel costs are not included in the Program budget.

**d. Equipment**

Equipment not included in the Program budget.

**e. Supplies**

Supplies are not included separately in the Program budget.

**f. Contractual**

Contractual costs are included to perform required grant management and reporting on behalf of the District. Grant Reporting will be performed by a consultant (Soto Resources). Reporting includes Financial Reports, Interim Performance Reports, and a Final Performance Report.

- Task 5: Grant Management and Reporting – A total of 54 hours at a rate of \$185/hour is allocated for this task. A total of **\$9,900** is budgeted for the 2-year time frame allotted for the Program. The budgeted cost for the consultant was determined to be fair and reasonable because it is consistent with District estimates based on experience with similar projects. The District typically utilizes sole-source procurement methods for professional grant management and reporting services, with the basis of selection including consultant experience, institutional knowledge, and proposed fee.

**g. Construction**

Construction costs are not included in the Program budget.

**h. Other Direct Costs**

Other direct costs related to the Program are the rebate costs described below.

- Task 4 Rebate Incentives – Over the 2-year period of the potential grant award, SCWD proposes to facilitate the implementation of approximately 22,000 SF of turfgrass conversions to California Friendly/drought tolerant plants and 15,000 SF of turfgrass conversions to synthetic turf in approved landscape areas, based on previous program participation. The Program also includes approximately

85,250 SF of applied mulch to landscape areas. The District proposes to provide incentives through a rebate-style format to residential or commercial property owners/managers for qualifying conversions. A total of **\$180,215** is budgeted for the rebate incentives. The rebate amounts were based on existing rebate amounts and current installation costs for the proposed water conservation measures. The District estimated the total amounts for the rebates based on recent feedback showing interest in the Program and historical participation data. The number of participants will be based on Program demand and project size; rebate budget amounts may shift between rebate categories based on demand during the grant period. **Table 5** below details the anticipated rebate amounts; rebate levels may vary due to market transformation during the implementation phase. Letters of support provided by nine multi-family communities in the area, including Harbor Creek, Lantern Hill, Mira Costa Villas, Niguel Shores, Waterford Pointe, Niguel Shores, Spinnaker Run, Waterford Place and Seascape Village, along with Montage Laguna Beach and Monarch Bay Plaza, (included in **Appendix A**) show support for the Program and anticipated participation.

Previously, the District had 299 customer sites participate in the turf removal rebate program for Synthetic Turf and an additional 225 sites participate in the California Friendly plant programs from FY 2010 to FY 2022. These totals were considered in developing anticipated participation for the proposed Program and total budget estimates.

**Table 5. Budget Rebate Incentives Detail**

<b>Other Direct Costs</b>					
<b>Description</b>	<b>Rebate Amount</b>	<b>Rebate Unit</b>	<b>Estimated Site Area</b>	<b>Site Area Unit</b>	<b>Total</b>
Rebate Programs - CA Friendly Plants	\$3.00	/SF	22,000	SF	\$66,000
Rebate Programs - Synthetic Turf	\$5.00	/SF	15,000	SF	\$75,000
Rebate Programs – Mulch	\$0.46	/SF	85,250	SF	\$39,215
			<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$180,215</b>

**i. Indirect Costs**

Indirect costs are not included for the Water Efficiency Incentive Program.

**Total Costs**

**Indicate total amount of project costs, including the Federal and non-Federal cost share amounts.**

The Water Efficiency Incentive Program total cost is \$200,000. The Federal cost share requested is \$100,000 (50%) and the non-Federal cost share amount is \$100,000 (50%), as shown in **Table 2**.

**Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance**

Based on the nature of the water conservation programs, it is anticipated a Categorical Exclusion under NEPA will be determined. Therefore, there is no need to include Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs. These costs will not be incurred implementing the Program. Therefore, no associated costs are presented in the budget.

**(1) Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.**

No, the Water Efficiency Incentive Program (Program) provides incentives for turf replacement and mulch application and should pose no adverse impact to the surrounding environment. The work will be performed

on property that is considered already disturbed, and no further requirements are needed. It is anticipated that a Categorical Exclusion under NEPA will be required given the nature of the Program that provides rebates for water conservation projects. A Categorical Exclusion seems appropriate since the Program will likely not have a significant effect on the human environment and, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement would be required.

**(2) Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?**

No known species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal endangered or threatened species, or designated critical habitats are within the Program area. The Program will be implemented at specific properties in landscaped areas that are considered already disturbed that are not critical habitat and not considered to affect species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal endangered or threatened species.

**(3) Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "waters of the United States?" If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the project may have.**

No, there are not wetlands or other surface waters inside the Program site boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "waters of the United States." No associated impacts would occur and no mitigation is required. The Program will be implemented at specific properties in landscaped areas that are considered already disturbed and outside of waters of the United States.

**(4) When was the water delivery system constructed?**

The original water delivery system was built in 1932.

**(5) Will the project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.**

No, the Program will not result in any modification of or effect to individual features of an irrigation system.

**(6) Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.**

There are no buildings, structures, or features listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places within the Program sites. The Program will be implemented at specific properties in landscaped areas that are considered already disturbed.

**(7) Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?**

There are no known archeological sites in the proposed Program area. The Program will be implemented at specific properties in landscaped areas that are considered already disturbed.

**(8) Will the project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?**

The Program will not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. The Program has the potential to provide positive monetary benefits to low income and minority populations by incentivizing water conservation project implementation which, after installation, will



potentially decrease the costs to that population.

**(9) Will the project limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?**

The Program will not limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on Tribal lands.

**(10) Will the project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?**

No, the Program will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area.

**Required Permits or Approvals**

**Applicants must state in the application whether any permits or approvals are necessary and explain the plan for obtaining such permits or approvals.**

There are no required permits anticipated for the Program.

**Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement**

There is no anticipated overlap between the proposed Program and any other active or anticipated District proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel that would adversely impact the Program. In addition, the proposal submitted for consideration under this grant program is not currently in any way duplicative of any proposal or project that has been or will be submitted for funding consideration to any other potential Federal or non-Federal funding source.

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement**

No actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission of this application.

**Uniform Audit Reporting Statement**

**Submit a Single Audit report for any year receive more than \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds. State whether your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year.**

All U.S. states, local governments, Federally recognized Indian Tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 in U.S. dollars or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse Internet Data Entry System in accordance with 2 CFR §200 subpart F. The District was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year (FY 2022-2023) but did submit a Single Audit report for FY 2021-2022.

**Certification Regarding Lobbying**

This application does not request more than \$100,000 in Federal funding.

**Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

The Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form represents the District's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

**Letters of Support**

Program importance is demonstrated by the letters of support from U.S. Representative Mike Levin of

California's 49th Congressional District and U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler of California. Letters of support provided by seven nine multi-family communities in the area, including Harbor Creek, Lantern Hills, Mira Costa Villas, Niguel Shores, Waterford Pointe, Seascape Village, Spinnaker Run, Niguel Shores, and Waterford Place, along with Montage Laguna Beach and Monarch Bay Plaza show support for the Program. Letters of support for the Program are included in **Appendix A**.

### **Official Resolution**

A resolution of the SCWD Board of Directors is included in **Appendix B**. The official resolution was adopted at the meeting of the District's Board of Directors on January 11, 2024. The resolution verifies the District's legal authority to enter into an agreement; the Board of Directors has reviewed and supports submittal of this application; the capability of the District to provide the amount of funding and in-kind contributions specified in the Funding Plan; and that the District will work cooperatively with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into an agreement.

### **Letters of Funding Commitment**

**If cost sharing is anticipated, third party cost share must be supported with letters of commitment prior to award.**

Not applicable; cost share funding is not anticipated to be provided by a source other than the District.

### **Appendices**

The following appendices are attached in the following pages.

**Appendix A – Letters of Support**

**Appendix B – Official Resolution**

## Appendix A - Letters of Support



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

January 4, 2024

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton  
Commissioner  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton,

I write to request full and fair consideration of South Coast Water District's (SCWD) grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025. SCWD is requesting funds for its Water Efficiency Incentive Program, as it supports its long-term goals of water conservation, water supply reliability, and efficient water management.

The two-year targeted landscape improvement program offers rebates to promote water conservation through the transformation of high-water-use turfgrass landscaping and irrigation to California-friendly landscapes, synthetic turf landscapes, and mulch landscapes. These measures show potential to reduce potable water use, increase irrigation efficiency and uniformity, and limit nonpoint source pollutants associated with dry-weather and stormwater runoff.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration of this application. Please contact me or my staff if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Levin".

Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



## United States Senate

January 3, 2024

The Honorable Camille Touton  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton,

I write in support of the South Coast Water District's application for funding from the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Grant Program, administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The South Coast Water District (SCWD) is requesting funding for its Water Efficiency Incentive Program, a two-year targeted landscape improvement program. SCWD provides potable water, recycled water, and wastewater services to the coastal communities of southern Orange County, an area that relies heavily on imported water supplies from the Colorado River and the State Water Project. This project will help SCWD to serve its greater goals of long-term water conservation, increased water supply reliability, and efficient water management.

If awarded, this grant would allow SCWD to offer rebates for replacing high-water-use landscapes, such as turf grass and irrigation, with drought-resistant alternatives including California-friendly landscaping, synthetic turf, and mulch. Rebates would incentivize residents and commercial properties within SCWD's service area to conserve potable water otherwise used for irrigation and landscaping. These efforts would also result in increased irrigation efficiency and a reduction in non-point source pollutants associated with dry-weather and stormwater runoff. Implementation of this program would support regional priorities to improve water efficiency and conservation efforts throughout Orange County and the greater Southern California region.

I urge you to give the South Coast Water District's application every consideration. Please keep my office informed of the status of this request, and if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Los Angeles office at (310) 914-7300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laphonza Butler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Laphonza Butler  
United States Senator

January 2, 2024

Rick A. Shintaku, PE  
General Manager  
South Coast Water District  
31592 West Street,  
Laguna Beach, California 92651  
rshintaku@scwd.org  
(949) 342-1152 Office

Re: Letter of Support for Funding South Coast Water District's Water Efficiency Incentive Program grant application for the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 & 2025

Dear Mr. Shintaku:

We understand that the South Coast Water District (District) is submitting a WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects grant application for consideration by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2024 & 25. This grant would help fund the District's **Water Efficiency Incentive Program**, as part of its long-term goal of water conservation, water supply reliability and efficient water management. The District has been providing reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since 1932 and its service area includes the Harbor Creek Home Owner's Association (HOA), located in the City of Dana Point. The Harbor Creek HOA fully supports the Project and the District's efforts to enhance water use efficiency and local water supply reliability. The two-year targeted landscape improvement program offers rebates to promote water conservation through the removal and transformation of high-water-use turfgrass landscaping to California Friendly and drought-tolerant landscapes. These measures will result in reductions of potable water use, increased irrigation efficiency, and reductions of nonpoint source pollutants associated with dry-weather and stormwater runoff.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding our support of this project, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [mmgora73@gmail.com](mailto:mmgora73@gmail.com) or via telephone at (714)587-1485.

Sincerely,



Matt Gora,  
President Harbor Creek H.O.A.

January 3, 2024

Rick A. Shintaku, PE  
General Manager  
South Coast Water District  
31592 West Street,  
Laguna Beach, California 92651  
rshintaku@scwd.org  
(949) 342-1152 Office

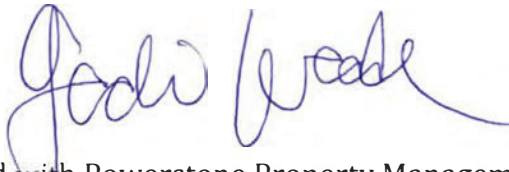
Re: Letter of Support for Funding South Coast Water District's Water Efficiency Incentive Program grant application for the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 & 2025

Dear Mr. Shintaku:

We understand that the South Coast Water District (District) is submitting a WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects grant application for consideration by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2024 & 25. This grant would help fund the District's **Water Efficiency Incentive Program**, as part of its long-term goal of water conservation, water supply reliability and efficient water management. The district has been providing reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since 1932 and its service area includes the Lantern Hill Home Owner's Association (HOA), located in the City of Dana Point. The Lantern Hill HOA fully supports the Project and the District's efforts to enhance water use efficiency and local water supply reliability. The two-year targeted landscape improvement program offers rebates to promote water conservation through the removal and transformation of high-water-use turfgrass landscaping to California Friendly and drought-tolerant landscapes. These measures will result in reductions of potable water use, increased irrigation efficiency, and reductions of nonpoint source pollutants associated with dry-weather and stormwater runoff.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding our support of this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jwood@powerstonepm.com](mailto:jwood@powerstonepm.com).

Sincerely,



Jodi Wood with Powerstone Property Management, Community Manager for the Lantern Hill HOA,



January 3, 4

Rick A Shintaku, PE  
General Manager  
South Coast Water District  
31592 West Street,  
Laguna Beach, California 92651  
rshintaku@scwd.org  
(949) 342-1152 Office

Re: Letter of Support for Funding South Coast Water District's Water Efficiency Incentive Program grant application for the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 & 5

Dear Mr. Shintaku:

We understand that the South Coast Water District (District) is submitting a WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects grant application for consideration by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2024 & 5. This grant would help fund the District's **Water Efficiency Incentive Program**, as part of its long-term goal of water conservation, water supply reliability and efficient water management. The District has been providing reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since 1932 and its service area includes the (Mira Costa Villas) Home Owner's Association (HOA), located in the City of (San Clemente). The (Mira Costa Villas) HOA fully supports the Project and the District's efforts to enhance water use efficiency and local water supply reliability. The two-year targeted landscape improvement program offers rebates to promote water conservation through the removal and transformation of high-water-use turfgrass landscaping to California Friendly and drought-tolerant landscapes. These measures will result in reductions of potable water use, increased irrigation efficiency, and reductions of nonpoint source pollutants associated with dry-weather and stormwater runoff.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding our support of this project, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [jpgallagher@pcl.com](mailto:jpgallagher@pcl.com) or via telephone at (949-547-1934).

Sincerely,



John Gallagher,  
President of Mira Costa Villas HOA



**Niguel Shores Community Association**

33654 Niguel Shores Drive  
Dana Point, California 92629-4221  
(949) 493-0122 • Fax (949) 388-7892

January 4, 2024

Rick A. Shintaku, PE  
General Manager  
South Coast Water District  
31592 West Street,  
Laguna Beach, California 92651  
rshintaku@scwd.org  
(949) 342-1152 Office

Re: Letter of Support for Funding South Coast Water District's Water Efficiency Incentive Program grant application for the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 & 2025

Dear Mr. Shintaku:

We understand that the South Coast Water District (District) is submitting a WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects grant application for consideration by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2024 & 25. This grant would help fund the District's **Water Efficiency Incentive Program**, as part of its long-term goal of water conservation, water supply reliability and efficient water management. The District has been providing reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since 1932 and its service area includes the Niguel Shores Community Association (NSCA), located in the City of Dana Point. The Niguel Shores Community Association fully supports the Project and the District's efforts to enhance water use efficiency and local water supply reliability. The two-year targeted landscape improvement program offers rebates to promote water conservation through the removal and transformation of high-water-use turfgrass landscaping to California Friendly and drought-tolerant landscapes. These measures will result in reductions of potable water use, increased irrigation efficiency, and reductions of nonpoint source pollutants associated with dry-weather and stormwater runoff.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding our support of this project, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [mmiller@niguelshores.org](mailto:mmiller@niguelshores.org) or via telephone at 949-493-0122 x5.

Sincerely,

Marla Miller  
General Manager

January 8, 2024

Rick A. Shintaku, PE  
General Manager  
South Coast Water District  
31592 West Street,  
Laguna Beach, California 92651  
rshintaku@scwd.org  
(949) 342-1152 Office

Re: Letter of Support for Funding South Coast Water District's Water Efficiency Incentive Program grant application for the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 & 2025

Dear Mr. Shintaku:

We understand that the South Coast Water District (District) is submitting a WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects grant application for consideration by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2024 & 25. This grant would help fund the District's **Water Efficiency Incentive Program**, as part of its long-term goal of water conservation, water supply reliability and efficient water management. The District has been providing reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since 1932 and its service area includes the Waterford Pointe Home Owner's Association (HOA), located in the City of Dana Point. The Waterford Pointe HOA fully supports the Project and the District's efforts to enhance water use efficiency and local water supply reliability. The two-year targeted landscape improvement program offers rebates to promote water conservation through the removal and transformation of high-water-use turfgrass landscaping to California Friendly and drought-tolerant landscapes. These measures will result in reductions of potable water use, increased irrigation efficiency, and reductions of nonpoint source pollutants associated with dry-weather and stormwater runoff.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding our support of this project, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [markeck@cox.net](mailto:markeck@cox.net) or via telephone at 949-606-4007.

Sincerely,



Mark F. Eck  
President of the Board of Directors  
Waterford Pointe Home Owners Association

January 7, 2024

Rick A. Shintaku, PE  
General Manager  
South Coast Water District  
31592 West Street,  
Laguna Beach, California 92651  
rshintaku@scwd.org  
(949) 342-1152 Office

Re: Letter of Support for Funding South Coast Water District's Water Efficiency Incentive Program grant application for the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 & 2025

Dear Mr. Shintaku:

We understand that the South Coast Water District (District) is submitting a WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects grant application for consideration by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2024 & 25. This grant would help fund the District's **Water Efficiency Incentive Program**, as part of its long-term goal of water conservation, water supply reliability and efficient water management. The District has been providing reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since 1932 and its service area includes the Seascope Village Owner's Association (HOA), located in the City of San Clemente. The Seascope Village Owner's Association (HOA) fully supports the Project and the District's efforts to enhance water use efficiency and local water supply reliability. The two-year targeted landscape improvement program offers rebates to promote water conservation through the removal and transformation of high-water-use turfgrass landscaping to California Friendly and drought-tolerant landscapes. These measures will result in reductions of potable water use, increased irrigation efficiency, and reductions of nonpoint source pollutants associated with dry-weather and stormwater runoff.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding our support of this project, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [novotny5@cox.net](mailto:novotny5@cox.net) or via telephone at 949-573-1834

Sincerely,



Carolyn Novotny  
President

December 26, 2023

Rick A. Shintaku, PE  
General Manager  
South Coast Water District  
31592 West Street,  
Laguna Beach, California 92651  
rshintaku@scwd.org  
(949) 342-1152 Office

Re: Letter of Support for Funding South Coast Water District's Water Efficiency Incentive Program grant application for the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 & 2025

Dear Mr. Shintaku:

We understand that the South Coast Water District (District) is submitting a WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects grant application for consideration by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2024 & 25. This grant would help fund the District's **Water Efficiency Incentive Program**, as part of its long-term goal of water conservation, water supply reliability and efficient water management. The District has been providing reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since 1932 and its service area includes the Montage Laguna Beach, located in the City of Laguna Beach. The Montage Laguna Beach fully supports the Project and the District's efforts to enhance water use efficiency and local water supply reliability. The two-year targeted landscape improvement program offers rebates to promote water conservation through the removal and transformation of high-water-use turfgrass landscaping to California Friendly and drought-tolerant landscapes. These measures will result in reductions of potable water use, increased irrigation efficiency, and reductions of nonpoint source pollutants associated with dry-weather and stormwater runoff.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding our support of this project, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [carlos.ayon@montage.com](mailto:carlos.ayon@montage.com) or via telephone at 949-715-6242.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'CA' followed by a horizontal line.

Carlos Ayon  
Director of Engineering  
Montage Laguna Beach



**CAGNEY ENTERPRISES, LLC**

216 NORTH COAST HIGHWAY 101  
ENCINITAS, CA 92024

TELEPHONE  
0-753- 22

FACSIMILE  
0- -

December 28, 2023

Rick A. Shintaku, PE  
General Manager  
South Coast Water District  
31592 West Street,  
Laguna Beach, California 92651  
rshintaku@scwd.org  
(949) 342-1152 Office

Re: Letter of Support for Funding South Coast Water District's Water Efficiency Incentive Program grant application for the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 & 2025

Dear Mr. Shintaku:

We understand that the South Coast Water District (District) is submitting a WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects grant application for consideration by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2024 & 25. This grant would help fund the District's **Water Efficiency Incentive Program**, as part of its long-term goal of water conservation, water supply reliability and efficient water management. The District has been providing reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since 1932 and its service area includes the Monarch Bay Plaza Shopping Center, located in the City of Dana Point. The Monarch Bay Plaza Shopping Center fully supports the Project and the District's efforts to enhance water use efficiency and local water supply reliability. The two-year targeted landscape improvement program offers rebates to promote water conservation through the removal and transformation of high-water-use turfgrass landscaping to California Friendly and drought-tolerant landscapes. These measures will result in reductions of potable water use, increased irrigation efficiency, and reductions of nonpoint source pollutants associated with dry-weather and stormwater runoff.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding our support of this project, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [propertyadmin@cepms.net](mailto:propertyadmin@cepms.net) or via telephone at 760 753-7722.

Sincerely,



Theresa C. Morrison, Manager  
Cagney Enterprises, LLC



Appendix B - Official Resolution

SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 16-23/24

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT ENDORSING WATERSMART: SMALL-SCALE WATER EFFICIENCY PROJECTS GRANT2024**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Bureau of Reclamation is currently offering grant opportunities through the WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2024 & 25; and

**WHEREAS**, said WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for FY 2024 & 25 is a cost-shared program emphasizing water efficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of South Coast Water District (“Board”) supports the submission by the South Coast Water District (“District”) of a grant application, prepared and approved by the District, to the WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for FY 2024 & 25; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is capable of providing the amount of matching funds of up to \$100,000 in cash and/or in-kind contributions specified in the grant application’s funding plan; and

**WHEREAS**, if selected for a WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for FY 2024 & 25, the District will work with the United States Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement;

**NOW, THEREFORE, SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, ORDER AND DETERMINE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1:** The Board approves the submission of the application for the WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for FY 2024 & 25 by the District for fiscal year 2024-25, fiscal year 2025-26.

**Section 2:** In the event grant funding is provided by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the Board authorizes the General Manager of the District or his designee to accept the grant and sign any contract for administration of the grant funds and delegate the Chief Financial Officer to act as a fiscal agent for any grant funding received.

**Section 3:** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Section 4:** The Secretary shall certify the adoption of this resolution and henceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.



\_\_\_\_\_  
President

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

# ***SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT***

Serving the Public Since 1932

## **Certification**

I, Rick Shintaku, Secretary of the SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT, Orange County, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing **Resolution No. 16-23/24** was duly adopted at a meeting of the Governing Board of said District, held on the 11th day of January, 20234 by the following vote of members of the Board:

**AYES:** Doug Erdman, Scott Goldman, Rick Erkeneff, Bill Green, Joe Muller

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

and I further certify that Doug Erdman, as President and Rick Shintaku, as Secretary, signed and approved said **Resolution No. 16-23/24** on the 11th day of January, 2024.



---

Rick Shintaku  
Secretary of the Board  
South Coast Water District

(District Seal)