

Minutes
Water Conservation Commission

May 3, 2018

1. Call to Order/Introduction:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Commission members Phil Clark, Jan Shriner, Charlie Eskridge, Bethany Taylor, Jim Felton, and Efrem Valentin were present. Margaret-Anne Coppernoll, David Brown, and Jason Montgomery, and were absent. Paul Lord, Patrick Breen, and Paula Riso were present from staff.

2. Public Comments on Any Item Not on the Agenda:

There were no public comments.

3. Action Item:

A. Approve the April 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

Vice Chair Eskridge made a motion to approve the April 5, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Felton seconded the motion. With a vote of 4-Ayes, 0-Noes, 2-Abstained (Felton, Taylor), 3-Absent (Brown, Coppernoll, Montgomery), the motion was passed.

4. Staff Reports:

A. Review and Comment on Proposed Changes to the Landscape Incentive Program:

Mr. Lord introduced this item and discussion on the Landscape Incentive Program ensued. The Commission discussed the following Landscape Project Criteria:

1. *Establish that when replacing lawn with low-water use landscaping, some of the lawn area renovated be replaced with low- or very-low water use plants, new mature tree canopy area, or new decorative rock at the following rates:*
 - a. *50% - for the renovated lawn area up to 1,000 square feet. (same as before)*
 - b. *25% - for the additional renovated lawn area between 1,000 square feet and 10,000 square feet. (50% of the previous planted area required)*
 - c. *10% - for the additional renovated lawn area over 10,000 square feet. (20% of the previous planted area required)*

Item 1 - There was much discussion regarding what should replace the renovated lawn area, and how much of the area needs to be replanted. The State program requires there to be either one established tree, or one new tree to be planted in the renovated area. There were suggestions to cover 100% of the renovated area with shrubs or low canopy plants. There was discussion on including the tree canopy/dripline in the total planting area.

2. *Establish that the remaining, lawn replacement project area that is not replaced with WUCOLS-listed low- or very-low water use plants, new mature tree canopy area, or new decorative rock must be new porous hardscape or receive a minimum of 3" decorative mulch.*

3. *Establish that hardscape installed in the lawn replacement project area must be permeable, pervious, or porous.*
4. *Establish that the turf replaced may be living or dead at the time of application to the program. But, there must be evidence of a previous lawn. All the turf must still be in place at the time of staff's initial project review and project approval.*
5. *Establish that Solarization and Sheet Mulching are acceptable methods of lawn removal.*

Item 5 - It was suggested to add full removal as an acceptable method of lawn removal.

6. *Establish that without an authorized exemption, only drip or dripperline emission devices are permitted in the irrigation zones retrofitted from sprinklers to drip irrigation.*
7. *Establish that at least one existing or new tree per thousand square feet of project area (beyond the first 1,000 square feet), be incorporated into the converted landscape.*

Item 7 - Mr. Lord suggested one existing or new tree per 10,000 square feet.

8. *Establish that abandoned or inoperative irrigation system components be removed and that the associated water supply lines capped.*
9. *Establish that the definition of a landscape site is the area served by a single, metered water service.*
10. *Establish that only existing sites, developed before January 1st 2009, are eligible for the incentives.*

Item 10 - This item was removed from the criteria.

11. *Establish that only with District approval, may a projects installation window exceed 60 days from the time of initial project approval.*
12. *Clarify that incentive payments under \$600 shall be dispersed to the customer as a credit towards their future water bills.*

Item 12 – This item requires further review and will be removed until later.

Incentive Payments

1. *Change the incentive payments as follows:*
 - a. *Lawn Replacement*
 - i. *Increase the incentive from \$0.25 to \$0.50 per square foot for the first 5,000 square feet. (double the previous amount)*

Item 1.a.i – Discussion to raise incentive to \$1 per square foot for lawn replacement.

- b. *Sprinkler Renovation to Drip*
 - i. *Increase the incentive from \$0.25 to \$0.50 per square foot for the first 5,000 square feet of irrigated area (double the previous amount)*

Item 1.b.i – Remove the sprinkler renovation to drip from the incentive program.

c. Rain Shut-off Switch Rebate

i. Increase the incentive from a maximum payment of \$50 to \$100.

Item 1.c.i – This item was not discussed.

Director Shriner suggested changing the title to Residential Landscape Incentive Program and creating a separate program for Commercial.

The Commission agreed to table items B) Receive Updated GPCD, Water Production, and Water Consumption Data; and, C) Receive an Update and View Slides of Recent Public Events Attended, until a future meeting.

5. Receive Update on Board/District Activities:

Director Shriner updated the Commission on activities the Board of Directors is currently involved in. She said that at a recent special meeting, an easement with CSUMB was approved after twelve years of negotiations. Director Shriner said the annexation process is continuing to move forward despite several lawsuits against the District to try to stop it. She also noted that the Conservation Ordinance is scheduled to come back before the Board, but there is no proposed date at this time.

6. Receive Comments from Commission Members:

Vice Chair Eskridge suggested the Commissioners look up California State Landscaping Guidelines for reference at the next meeting. Chair Clark asked if everyone filled out their prioritized Goals and Objectives list. Chair Clark thanked the public event volunteers and noted that there was a Children's Birthday event scheduled for May 12th at the Marina Library.

7. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.