



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 25, 2007
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Water Resources, Public Works Department
SUBJECT: Acceptance Of Grant For Rain Sensor Rebate Program

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Accept a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the amount of \$19,125 for developing and implementing the Rain Sensor Rebate Program; and
- B. Increase the estimated Fiscal Year 2008 Water Fund Revenues by \$19,125 and appropriate the same to the Water Fund Operating Budget.

DISCUSSION:

The Public Works Department, in partnership with the Goleta Water District, applied for and received a grant for \$19,125 from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to assist in funding the Rain Sensor Rebate Program.

Rain sensors, attached to automatic irrigation controllers, are effective at reducing wasteful irrigation when local rainfall has met the immediate irrigation requirement. About 50% of the typical home water use in the City of Santa Barbara and the Goleta Water District is for irrigating landscaping. For a variety of reasons, it is not uncommon for irrigation controllers to be left on during and immediately after a rain event, which is an unnecessary use of water. The goal of the rain sensor rebate program is to reduce this waste by automatically shutting off irrigation controllers during and immediately following rain events.

There will be two options for the customer: 1) receive a rebate up to \$50 for a professional to install the rain sensor, or 2) receive a free rain sensor to self-install after a brief training. This program will bring an increased awareness to the benefits of rain sensors and the importance of water conservation.

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

Agenda Item No. _____

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The City of Santa Barbara and the Goleta Water District will provide matching funding through in-kind staff support. Additionally, they will each contribute \$2,000 from budgeted advertising/public information funds.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The program will distribute 450 rebates, which will equate an approximate 15.2 acre feet per year in water savings, and continue our efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of efficient irrigation practices.

PREPARED BY: Steve Mack, Water Resources Manager/AWJ/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Anthony J. Nisich, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office