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Agenda Date: 4/22/2021
Council Meeting

2021 APR 22 A 8:00

CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Information Packet

ITEM(S)

File ID 21-562 (1-BB)

***RESOLUTION - Modifying various water conservation program rebates. (Subject to Mayor's veto)

Contents of Supplement: Revised Resolution.

Item(s)

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

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The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, MODIFYING VARIOUS WATER
CONSERVATION PROGRAM REBATES

WHEREAS, the annual April 2021 snow survey conducted by the California Department of Water Resources revealed that statewide the snowpack is 59% of the average; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno (City) is committed to water conservation as a way of life and the protection of its water supply; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted water conservation restrictions and enforcement procedures to ensure compliance with statewide conservation requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City offers a variety of rebates to eligible customers, with the goal of offsetting a portion of the customer's cost of installing water-efficiency upgrades and landscaping materials; and

WHEREAS, the City now wishes to modify some of the rebates offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The "Lawn Replacement Rebate Program" shall be modified to require installation of micro (drip) irrigation measures and capping-off of existing sprinklers in the proposed lawn replacement area. The modified "Lawn Replacement Rebate Program" shall be known as the "Lawn-to-Garden Rebate Program."

2. To qualify for the “Lawn-to-Garden Rebate Program,” applicants must complete an eligible lawn replacement and satisfy the requirements of the existing “Micro (Drip) Irrigation Rebate Program.”

3. The requirements for the “Lawn-to-Garden Rebate Program” are as follows:

a. The maximum allowable area eligible for rebate is increased from 1,000 square feet of lawn removed to 1,500 square feet of lawn removed, with a required minimum of 250 square feet of lawn replaced.

b. The rebate applies only to lawn replacement in front yards with existing viable turf area.

c. The available rebate is increased from \$0.50 per square foot to \$1.00 per square foot.

d. Artificial (synthetic) turf is not permitted in the rebated portion of converted landscape.

e. The rebated portion of the converted landscape must include plants in a minimum of 33% of the converted area at maturity.

4. The requirements for the “Micro (Drip) Irrigation Rebate Program” are modified as follows:

a. The maximum allowable rebate is increased from \$0.50 per square foot up to a maximum of 1,000 square feet to a maximum rebate of up to \$500 for the purchase of new drip irrigation supplies. Applicants may not receive a rebate that exceeds the cost of the drip irrigation supplies purchased, as evidenced by dated and itemized sales receipts.

5. The Department of Public Utilities is directed to regularly update the online resource document titled “Qualifying Micro (Drip) Irrigation Supplies” to provide a current, non-exhaustive list, of active websites to qualifying supplies and resources.

6. Prior to July 1, 2021, the Department of Public Utilities shall develop and present a new application process for the “Lawn-to-Garden Rebate” to the City Council for approval. In developing the new application, the Department shall incorporate the following:

a. Simplify the application process and the application instructions. For example, verbiage should be simplified, the application materials should be shortened, and redundancies in the application materials should be removed.

b. Create an online form to offer applicants the option to apply for the rebate on the internet.

c. Develop, and make available online, a non-exhaustive list of allowable plants, trees, mulch, etc. which will qualify for the rebate.

d. Require that applicants participate in an initial and post-installation consultation with City staff to qualify for the “Lawn-to-Garden Rebate Program.”

7. Prior to July 1, 2021, the Department of Public Utilities shall simplify the application process and the application instructions for the “Micro (Drip) Irrigation Rebate Program.” For example, verbiage should be simplified, the application materials should be shortened, and redundancies in the application materials should be removed.

8. The requirements for the “Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate” are modified as follows:

a. The available rebate is increased from \$50 to \$100 for the purchase and installation of a qualifying new WaterSense certified Smart Irrigation Controller. Qualifying applicants may not receive a rebate that exceeds the cost of the qualifying product purchased, as evidenced by a dated and itemized sales receipt.

9. The above modifications to the identified Water Conservation Program Rebates shall go into effect on July 1, 2021.

10. To the extent this Resolution conflicts with Resolution 2014-181 and the Water Conservation Act adopted thereunder, this Resolution controls.

11. Applicants and landscape contractors and suppliers shall be solely responsible for any and all costs associated with the modifications.

12. This resolution shall be effective upon final approval.

* * * * *

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2021.

AYES :

NOES :

ABSENT :

ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: _____, 2021

Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2021

Mayor Veto: _____, 2021

Council Override Vote: _____, 2021

YVONNE SPENCE, MMC CRM
City Clerk

By: _____
Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DOUGLAS T. SLOAN
City Attorney

By: _____
Jennifer M. Quintanilla Date
Senior Deputy City Attorney