

09-2143

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MOTION

The City of Los Angeles is in the middle of a multi-year drought, and conservation of water is therefore of heightened importance. One way to conserving water is to replace traditional lawns with drought-tolerant landscapes which require less water to maintain. To encourage this, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power currently runs several rebate programs, including the Residential Drought Resistant Landscape Incentive Program, which gives a \$1/square-foot rebate to City homeowners who replace their lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping, and the Synthetic Turf Rebate program, which also gives a \$1/square foot rebate for the replacement of grass with artificial turf. Programs like this effectively encourage City residents to conserve water and thereby help the City avoid encountering water shortages.


Though the LADWP's program rewards City residents who help conserve water through drought-tolerant landscaping, several permits required before drought-tolerant landscaping and synthetic turf can be installed have significant associated fees. Due to the importance ensuring the City's water supply remains undisturbed in this drought, the City should ensure that there are no barriers or disincentives to water conservation, drought-tolerant landscaping, and synthetic turf, and should consider waiving landscape and parkway permit fees for drought-tolerant lawns.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City Planning Department, Department of Building and Safety, with assistance from the Department of Water and Power as necessary, be directed to report back to the Council within 30 days on fees currently assessed for landscape projects in which lawns and parkways are replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping or synthetic turf, and the feasibility of waiving permitting fees for those projects.

PRESENTED BY:


Greg Smith
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



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