14-1400

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

Outdoor irrigation makes up 60 percent of the average residential customer's water usage, according to the Metropolitan Water District (MWD).

In an effort to encourage City residents to remove their water-consuming lawns and replace them with drought-tolerant landscaping, the MWD, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), administers the "Cash-In-Your-Lawn" Program. This Program currently offers residential customers $3 for every square foot of turf removed.

In order to be eligible for the rebate, customers must show that they have grass and that they plan to remove it.

However, many City residents, in an effort to conserve water during the drought, have already reduced or eliminated outdoor irrigation and may no longer have a lawn. Under the current Program guidelines, these residents are not eligible for a rebate because of their inability to document the existence of a lawn.

Such customers should be eligible for a rebate, particularly if they have a lawn irrigation system in place. Residents who may not currently be watering their lawns may return to re-growing and watering them when drought conditions improve. In the event a property changes ownership, the new owner may seek to replace a dead lawn with new turf instead of converting it to drought-tolerant landscaping.

The "Cash-In-Your-Lawn" Program should aim to reduce future water consumption by targeting all lawns with irrigation systems – whether green or not. In this manner, the City and region's water conservation objectives can be effectively met.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power and Metropolitan Water District be requested to report to the Council in 30 days on the feasibility of modifying eligibility requirements associated with the "Cash-In-Your-Lawn" Program to allow customers with dying or dead lawns to receive the turf removal/modification rebates.

ORIGINAL

PRESENTED BY: _____
FELIPE FUENTES
Councilmember, 7th District

_____
MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: _____