



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Council Chamber
1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030
May 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**

IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM (HYBRID)

South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Statement of Civility

As your appointed governing board we will treat each other, members of the public, and city employees with patience, civility and courtesy as a model of the same behavior we wish to reflect in South Pasadena for the conduct of all city business and community participation. The decisions made tonight will be for the benefit of the South Pasadena community and not for personal gain.

NOTICE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953, subdivision (e) (3), the meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission for April 26, 2022 will be conducted remotely and held by video conference. The in-person/virtual hybrid meetings will maintain transparency and public access while protecting the health and safety of the public. Members of the public have the option to participate via Zoom using the following link:

Natural Resources and Environmental Commission

Zoom Meeting Information

Webinar ID: 872 4689 0595

Passcode: 248166

1. Go to the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Zoom Meeting information accordingly; or
2. Click on the following unique Zoom meeting link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87246890595?pwd=cGRHaW5sZkNORG9LNGIFOEtTW5uUT09>; or
3. You may listen to the meeting by calling: +1-669-900-6833 and entering the Zoom Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted to do so.

For additional Zoom assistance with telephone audio, you may find your local number at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcqijC6iQx>

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The NREC welcomes public input. If you would like to comment on any agenda item, members of the public may participate by means of one of the following options:
Option 1: Participants will be able to “raise their hand” using the Zoom icon during the meeting, and they will have their microphone un-muted during the comment portion of the agenda to speak for up to 3 minutes; or

Option 2: Email public comment(s) to: nrecpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov. **Public Comments received in writing will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be part of the meeting record.** Written Public Comments will be uploaded online for public viewing under Additional Documents. There is no word limit on emailed Public Comment(s). Please make sure to indicate: 1) your name (optional), and 2) what agenda item you are submitting public comment on, or if it is a general public comment, and 3) your comment. **Public Comments must be received by 12:00 p.m., May 24, 2022** to ensure adequate time to compile and post.

CALL TO ORDER: Casey Law

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Rona Bortz, Ella Hushagen, Amy Davis Jones, William J. Kelly, Michael Siegel; Vice Chair Michelle Hammond, Chair Casey Law.

COUNCIL LIAISON: Mayor Michael A. Cacciotti

STAFF PRESENT: Ted Gerber, Public Works Director
Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Casey Law

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS *(Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes)*
Pursuant to state law, the NREC may not discuss or take action on issues not on the meeting agenda, except that members of the NREC or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising public testimony rights (Government Code Section 54954.2). Staff may be asked to follow up on such items.

1. General Public Comment

PRESENTATIONS

2. Welcome Commissioner Ella Hushagen

3. eSGV Program: Free Home Assessments – SGVCOG, Johanna Read

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Commissioner Congress

ACTION ITEMS

- 5. **Approval of Minutes** - Meeting of April 26, 2022
- 6. **Fiscal Year 2022/23 Water Conservation Program Recommendation**

COMMUNICATIONS

- 7. **City Council Liaison Communications**
- 8. **Commissioner Communications**
- 9. **Staff Liaison Communications**
- 10. **Upcoming Events**
 - Friends of the Nature Park Volunteer Day – June 18
 - Commissioner Congress – June 22
 - LA County Smart Gardening Webinars - Various dates
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
 - MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars - Various dates
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE NREC MEETINGS

June 28, 2022	Council Chamber	7:00pm
July 26, 2022	Council Chamber	7:00pm
August 23, 2022	Council Chamber	7:00pm

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS AND BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS

Prior to meetings, agenda related documents and complete agenda packets are available for public inspection online at <https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/boards-commissions/natural-resources-environmental-commission>.

ACCOMMODATIONS



The City of South Pasadena wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Division at (626) 403-7230. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

I declare under penalty of perjury that I posted this notice of agenda on the bulletin board in the courtyard of City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030, and on the City's website as required by law.

5/19/22
Date



Arpy Kasparian
Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager

ITEM 5

Approval of Minutes – Meeting of April 26, 2022

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – April 26, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Amy Davis Jones, Commissioner William J. Kelly, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Vice Chair Michelle Hammond, and Chair Casey Law. Commissioner Rona Bortz had an excused absence. Council Liaison Present: Mayor Michael Cacciotti. Staff present: Ted Gerber, Public Works Director and Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager.

1) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2) Provide Input on Proposed FY 22/23 Water Conservation Program

Kasparian shared the current South Pasadena Water Conservation Program including background, rebate programs, budget, and proposed changes. This item will be brought back to the May Commission meeting as an action item to collect recommendations in preparation for the upcoming fiscal year. The commissioners voiced their concerns regarding the proposed greywater systems rebate for residents. Incentive values, City incentives, as well as total cumulative incentives with Metropolitan Water District, were discussed and altered to meet the needs of South Pasadena residents in reducing their average water usage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike G, South Pasadena resident, shared his comments in regard to water conservation rebates and programs. Also endorsed that education and promotion are equally as important as monetary incentives.

ACTION ITEMS:

3) Approval of Minutes– Meeting of March 22, 2022

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 5-0, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 22 NREC COMMISSION MEETING.

COMMUNICATIONS:

4) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Michael Cacciotti, representative on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, shared the newly implemented Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing. Cacciotti thanked Ted Gerber for working on intensive projects such as the electrification of South Pasadena City departments such as police, fire, and city hall.

5) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Hammond requested an update regarding the snake trail and the access trail off of Roland. Commissioner Hammond also asked for clarification about the planning process for the City's Tree Management Plan. Commissioner Hammond congratulated Arpy Kasparian on the successful Earth Day celebrations. Chair Law suggested for the Commission to share knowledge and ideas with

other commissions, encouraging the NREC to work with other commissions, especially with the adoption of the Climate Action Plan and Green Action Plan. No other commissioners had comments.

6) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian recapped the Earth Day events in South Pasadena and thanked each of the commissioners for their support.

Gerber shared information in regard to a special meeting occurring on April 27 discussing water supply, water conservation, and a short presentation by the Main San Gabriel Water Master, and updates from the Metropolitan Water District. On April 27, a level 3 EV charger will be installed at the fire department parking lot. The Clean Power Alliance will have a contractor evaluate the electric systems at City Hall to begin the analysis of a solar system through the Power Ready Program.

7) Upcoming Events

- Eclectic Music Festival – April 30
- 626 Golden Streets Event – May 1
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars - Various dates
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars - Various dates
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Casey Law adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on May 24, 2022.

Casey Law, Chair

ITEM 6

Approval of Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 Water Conservation Program



Natural Resources & Environmental Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. _____

DATE: May 24, 2022

FROM: Ted Gerber, Public Works Director
Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager

SUBJECT: **Recommendation to Approve Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 Water Conservation Program**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission recommends City Council approve the proposed Water Conservation Programs for the 2022-23 fiscal year including the declaration of a Stage 2: Serious Water Supply Shortage.

Background

Since the State of California declared a drought in January 2014, the has made a concerted effort to increase water conservation and improve water efficiency through the Water Conservation Program. When the 2014 drought state of emergency was rescinded, provisions of Executive Order B-37-16, “Making Conservation a California Way of Life,” were proclaimed to remain in full force and effect. Thus, continuing the City’s conservation efforts to present day. In November 2019, the South Pasadena Green Action Plan (Green Plan) was adopted with a goal to “Enhance Water Conservation Projects and Programs.” The plan includes actions such as evaluating the feasibility of a greywater rebate program, promoting water conservation rebates offered by the Metropolitan Water District, and providing educational materials and expert advice on water conservation practices. The Water Conservation Program is reviewed by the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission and approved by City Council annually.

Fiscal Impact

The FY 2021-22 Budget included \$115,000 under the City’s water conservation fund (Account No. 503-6010-6713-8032) which can only pay for water conservation projects. The FY 2022-23 Budget will be adopted later this year, and it is anticipated that the water conservation budget will remain the same as the previous fiscal year. The revenue for water conservation programs is collected through a water efficiency fee of \$0.14 per unit of water billed to all city water customers.

Discussion/Analysis

Annually, the City Council has adopted a water conservation program that includes rebates, education/outreach, water conservation material, and projects to promote water conservation throughout the City.

Recommendation of Fiscal Year 2022-23 Water Conservation Program

May 24, 2022

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With a total budget of \$115,000 for the water conservation program, the following table shows the budgeted allocations for each program for the current fiscal year (2021-2022). The table also includes expended funds for the MWD rebates as of April 30, 2022 and the expended funds for City rebates, water-use surveys, and water conservation promotion as of April 30, 2022. Lastly, the table includes the proposed budget allocations for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Given the low participation in rebates, especially for commercial, Staff proposes to reduce the allocations for MWD Commercial and City Commercial rebates from \$20,000 each to \$10,000 each and add a Greywater Pilot Program in the amount of \$20,000.

Proposed FY 2022-23 vs. Budgeted and Expended FY 2021-22 Water Conservation Rebate and Program Funding				
Water Conservation Rebate/Program	FY 2021-22 Budgeted	FY 2021-22 Expended (July 1 – April 30)	FY 2022-23 Proposed	Difference
MWD Additional Rebate Funding – Residential	\$25,000	\$10,699.67	\$25,000	-
MWD Additional Rebate Funding – Commercial	\$20,000	\$750	\$10,000	(\$10,000)
City Rebate Program - Residential	\$20,000	\$2,494.41	\$20,000	-
City Greywater Rebate Pilot Program – Residential Only	-	-	\$20,000	\$20,000
City Rebate Program - Commercial	\$20,000	\$0.00	\$10,000	(\$10,000)
Water-Use Surveys	\$5,000	\$0.00	\$5,000	-
Water Conservation Promotion	\$25,000	\$0.00	\$25,000	-
TOTAL:	\$115,000	\$13,944.08	\$115,000	-

The following conservation programs are proposed for Fiscal Year 2022-23:

City Co-Funded Metropolitan Water District Rebates

The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) offers residential and commercial rebates on indoor and outdoor devices as well as turf removal through their SoCalWaterSmart Program. In addition, the City adds supplemental funds to these rebates. Residents and business owners can apply for these rebates directly through the SoCalWaterSmart website and receive rebate checks that include both the MWD and City contributions. As discussed at the April 26, 2022 NREC meeting, co-funding amounts will be increased for several items. See Tables 1 and 2 in the attachment for a complete list of MWD rebates and changes to the City co-funding amounts for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

City Rebate Program

In addition to the MWD rebates, the City has its own rebate program that offers rebates on water conservation devices and landscaping that are not offered through MWD. These City rebates address our local water conservation needs and further encourage South Pasadena residents and business owners to implement water saving practices and play an active role in conserving our water sources. As discussed at the April 26, 2022 NREC meeting, rebate amounts will be increased, the rotating sprinkler nozzle rebate will be removed, and a City rebate for high efficiency dishwashers will be added. See Table 3 in the attachment for a complete list of changes to the City rebates for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Greywater Pilot Program

The FY22-23 Water Conservation Program will include a budget for a Greywater Pilot Program in the amount of \$20,000. The preliminary program plans include workshops on greywater systems with an emphasis on Laundry to Landscape systems and a rebate for materials used to install a Laundry to Landscape system in the amount of \$1,000 per household.

Residential and Commercial Water-Use Assessments

The City has partnered with San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) to promote their eSGV Program (formerly known as the EASY Program), which offers free energy and water assessments for homeowners as well as renters. Assessments can be completed virtually or in person. Residents can expect to receive a report with a list of steps they can take to conserve energy and water. City staff are working with SGVCOG to promote this program in conjunction with the rebate program.

Water Conservation Promotional Materials and Activities

Examples of items that can be used to promote water conservation are buckets, low-flow aerators, tree water aids, water conservation brochures/pamphlets, newsletters, and other print media. Funds can also be used for events, programs, outreach, and community classes related to water conservation education.

Declaring Stage 2: Water Supply Shortage

On April 26, 2022, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board of Directors declared a Water Shortage Emergency Condition and adopted an Emergency Water Conservation Program for areas that are dependent on State Water Project (SWP) supplies. On May 11, 2022, the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) Board of Directors also adopted an Emergency Water Conservation Program encouraging all Upper District’s retail water agencies (including South Pasadena) to reduce water used by 20 percent and limit outdoor irrigation to two days per week. Per the South Pasadena Municipal Code, staff will recommend to City Council to declare the City to move from Stage 1: Moderate Water Supply Shortage to a Stage 2: Serious Water Supply Shortage which would restrict outdoor watering to two days per week. Once approved, staff will provide outreach and education to residents and businesses via press release, e-newsletters, City website, City blog, etc. Violations of the new restrictions can be reported by emailing waterconservation@southpasadenaca.gov. Staff will first provide door hangers to notify residents and businesses of their violation and will escalate enforcement to include fines for repeated violations.

Public Notification of Agenda Item

The public was made aware that this item was to be considered this evening by virtue of its inclusion on the legally publicly noticed agenda, posting of the same agenda and reports on the City’s website and/or notice in the *South Pasadena Review*.

Attachment: Proposed MWD and City Residential and Commercial Rebates FY 22-23

ATTACHMENT
Proposed FY 2022-23 Water Conservation Rebates

Water Conservation Program Rebates

Table 1 and Table 2: The tables below summarize the proposed changes to the co-funding amounts for the FY 2022-23 MWD rebates.

Table 1: MWD <u>Residential</u> Rebates – FY 2022-23			
Rebate	MWD Incentive	City’s Incentive	Total Customer Incentive
High Efficiency Clothes Washer	\$85	\$165 -\$415	\$250 \$500
Premium High-Efficiency Toilet (1.1 gallon per flush)	\$40	\$110 -\$260	\$150 \$300
Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles	\$2	\$0	\$2
Weather Based Irrigation Controller (less than one acre)	\$80	\$100 \$170	\$180 \$250
Weather Based Irrigation Controller (one acre or more)	\$35 per station	\$15 \$65 per station	\$50 \$100 per station
Soil Moisture Sensor System (less than one acre)	\$80	\$70	\$150
Soil Moisture Sensor System (one acre or more)	\$35 per station	\$15 per station	\$50 per station
Rain Barrel	\$35	\$0	\$35
Cistern (200-500 gallons)	\$250	\$0	\$250
Cistern (501-999 gallons)	\$300	\$0	\$300
Cistern (1000+ gallons)	\$350	\$0	\$350
Flow Monitor Device (Pilot)	\$100	\$0 -\$100	\$100 \$200
Turf Removal	\$2 per ft ² (up to 5,000ft ²)	\$1 \$2 per ft ² (up to 1,500ft ²)	\$3 \$4 per ft ²

Table 2: MWD Commercial Rebates – FY 2022-23

Rebate	MWD Incentive	City's Incentive	Total Customer Incentive
Plumbing Flow Control Valve	\$5	\$0 \$5	\$5 \$10
Laminar Flow Restrictors	\$10	\$0 \$10	\$10 \$20
Premium High-Efficiency Toilet (1.1 gallon per flush) - Commercial	\$40	\$110 \$260	\$150 \$300
Premium High-Efficiency Toilet (1.1 gallon per flush) - Multifamily	\$40	\$110 \$260	\$150 \$300
Zero Water Urinals	\$200	\$0 \$100	\$200 \$300
Ultra Low Water Urinal	\$200	\$0 \$100	\$200 \$300
Weather Based Irrigation Controller (one acre or more)	\$35 per station	\$15 \$65 per station	\$50 \$100 per station
Central Computer Irrigation Controller	\$35 per station	\$0 \$35	\$35 \$70 per station
Soil Moisture Sensor System (one acre or more)	\$35 per station	\$15 per station	\$50 per station
Large Rotary Nozzles	\$13 per set	\$0 \$13	\$13 \$26 per set
Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles	\$2	\$0 \$2	\$2 \$4
In-Stem Flow Regulator	\$1	\$0 \$1	\$1 \$2
pH-Cooling Tower Controller	\$1,750	\$0	\$1,750
Cooling Tower Conductivity Controller	\$625	\$0	\$625
Dry Vacuum Pump	\$125 per 0.5 HP	\$0	\$125 per 0.5 HP
Connectionless Food Steamers	\$485 per compartment	\$0 \$485	\$485 \$970 per compartment
Ice-Making Machines	\$1,000	\$0 \$1,000	\$1,000 \$2,000
Turf Removal	\$2 per ft ² (up to 50,000ft ²)	\$0.50 \$2 per ft ² (up to 1,500ft ²)	\$2.50 \$4 per ft ²

Table 3: The table below summarizes the current FY 2021-22 and proposed FY 2022-23 City Rebate Program.

Table 3: City Rebate Program		
Commercial and Residential Rebate	Rebate Amount (FY 2021-22)	Proposed Rebate Amount (FY 2022-23)
Water Efficient (Drought Tolerant) Plants	\$600	\$1,200
Native Trees (10 trees maximum)	\$50 per tree	\$100 per tree
Drip Irrigation Conversion	\$150	\$300
Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles (10-29 nozzles)	\$2 per nozzle	removed
High Efficiency Dishwashers	-	\$500