



**Board of Directors  
February 20, 2019**

**SUBJECT:**

Approve and Authorize Funds (\$140,038) for the Residential Spray-to-Drip Retrofit Program

**BACKGROUND:**

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$69,723 from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grant Program for the Residential Spray-to-Drip Retrofit Program (Program). On March 15, 2017, EMWD's Board of Directors adopted a resolution in support of this grant application. The total program cost is \$140,038, with \$69,723 provided by grant funding and \$70,315 in matching funds. The grant match is anticipated to be funded with \$55,500 from the Metropolitan Water District's conservation credits program and \$14,815 with from EMWD's Special Projects and Studies budget.

This program will replace a current customer cost share program with one that is free of charge. Using the grant funding, 1,110 Spray-to-Drip conversion kits will be offered to residential customers on a first come, first served basis, beginning in March of 2019 through a voucher program. The kits contain enough equipment to convert 250 - 400 square-feet of planter beds from spray to drip irrigation and an installation DVD with maintenance tips. Staff will use various methods, including a sampling of on-site inspections to ensure the kits are correctly installed in appropriate areas, and analyze customer water use to confirm water savings.

Annual water savings resulting from the retrofit of each drip kit is estimated to be 0.05 acre-feet (AF), for an overall program savings of 555 AF over a 10-year period. EMWD's final cost is \$14,815 with an estimated savings of \$27 per AF.

EMWD has a history of successfully partnering with the USBR in water use efficiency programs, including the recently completed Water Use Efficiency Master Plan (Master Plan), a long-term guideline for implementing conservation programs at EMWD. One recommendation of the Master Plan is to focus on new and innovative outdoor conservation programs. The Program benefits include:

- Saving 555 AF over the 10-year lifetime of the program; and
- Providing customers educational materials about the advantages of efficient drip irrigation systems.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

This project will be financed from the District Special Projects and Studies budget subject to reimbursement from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (\$69,723) and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (\$55,500).

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL/OBJECTIVE:**

Water Use Efficiency: Promote efficient use of water resources through the implementation of industry-leading programs and practices combined with customer education and awareness.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:**

None

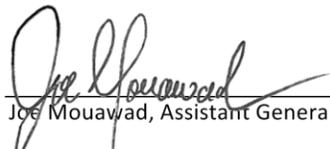
**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve and authorize \$140,038 from the District's Special Projects and Studies budget to fund the total project cost of the Residential Spray-to-Drip Retrofit Program.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
Paul D. Jones II, P.E., General Manager

2/8/2019

  
Joe Mouawad, Assistant General Manager

1/31/2019

**Attachment(s):**

Presentation

History:

02/14/19 Board Planning Committee RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL  
02/20/19 Board Meeting

Staff Contact: Elizabeth Lovstead