

# RWA Water Efficiency Program Update

September 8, 2020

- **Prop 1/IRWM Grant Overview**

We are in the process of finalizing the DWR grant agreement for Proposition 1/Integrated Regional Water Management funding. The Water Efficiency Program (WEP) has secured \$2.385 million in grant funding with a required local and regional cost share of \$1.326 million. The majority of the required cost share will be met using existing WEP program funding and agency water loss programs. The below chart summarizes the funding we will be receiving. We expect the DWR agreement to be signed this fall with grant funding to be available for use in early 2021. As a reminder, we receive this grant funding in the form of reimbursement after RWA or local suppliers incur the costs upfront. Expect a 1-3 month delay in receiving reimbursement funding from the state. More details to come in the next few months. We will be hosting specific meetings to discuss this funding for those agencies interested in participating in these rebate programs.

| Project                    | Component               | Grant Funding      | Cost share         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>#1 Water Efficiency</b> |                         | <b>\$1,185,000</b> | <b>\$315,000</b>   |
| Pass through               | Res. Irrigation Rebates | \$595,000          |                    |
| Pass through               | Res. Turf Replacement   | \$125,000          |                    |
| Pass through               | Res. Water Loss         | \$200,000          |                    |
| RWA                        | CII High User           | \$50,000           |                    |
| RWA                        | PO. Focus Group         | \$20,000           |                    |
| RWA                        | PO. Media Buys          | \$185,000          |                    |
| RWA                        | PO. Regional Garden     | \$10,000           |                    |
| <b>#2 Water Loss</b>       |                         | <b>\$1,000,000</b> | <b>\$1,000,000</b> |
| Pass through               | Agency Water Loss       |                    |                    |
| <b>#3 Research Studies</b> |                         | <b>\$200,000</b>   | <b>\$11,000</b>    |
| RWA                        | Indoor                  | \$100,000          |                    |
| RWA                        | Outdoor                 | \$100,000          |                    |
| <b>Total</b>               |                         | <b>\$2,385,000</b> | <b>\$1,326,000</b> |

- **Legislative/Regulation**

- Water Loss

CMUA , ACWA and RWA have to put together some additional water loss regulation communication tools to respond to State Water Board Board Member requests for

additional information. We put together a straightforward “problem, agency example, solution” chart to outline some of our major concerns with the model and a short list of agency examples addressing feasibility. We sent these document out to the RWEFAC last Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. We pulled some of the agency examples in the chart for our region’s water loss comment letters. We are looking for more agency specific examples in both the chart and the feasibility list. Please send me similar examples if you have them for your agency.

Furthermore, we are unsure if State Water Board staff are going to make any meaningful changes to the economic model moving forward. We will have a better idea about this when the State releases an updated version of the regulation and economic model at the start of the formal rulemaking process, expected to begin in late September. In preparation, we have put together an alternative approach (essentially an option #2 for compliance, #1 being using the economic model) that hopefully could help agencies with unfeasible targets from the model still have a path to compliance. This document was also sent out to the RWEFAC on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you have any feedback on any of these documents, please let me know by September 11<sup>th</sup>. We are coordinating edits with CMUA, ACWA, and CA NV AWWA water loss working groups.

- Landscape Area Measurement

The last meeting of the Landscape Area Measurement Workgroup was held on August 20, 2020. At this meeting, DWR presented the completed parcel classification validation results, including how they were derived and vetted, and their usefulness. Agency specific landscape budget data will start being released in batches of 25-40 suppliers after mid-September. DWR will release data to the two groups of suppliers that participated in the DWR pilot studies first. There will be resources available to assist suppliers with interpreting the released data.

- Indoor

DWR hosted a Water Use Studies meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to inform suppliers about the Indoor Residential Water Use Study, including study scope, sampling strategy, and approach to the monthly, hourly, and end-use disaggregation analyses that will be used to develop estimates of baseline indoor residential water use. While the indoor residential water use standards are already set via Senate Bill 606/AB 1668, DWR is required to conduct a study to assess if the current standards are realistic/sufficient. If the study concludes that changes to the current standard are needed, it will require legislative action for those changes. The current indoor standard is set at 55 gallons per capita per day, decreasing to 52.5 after 2025, and further decreasing to 50 after 2030.

- **QWEL Update**

RWA is scheduled to virtually host the fall QWEL class training series on October 7, 14, 21, and 28. Our instructors Lori Palmquist and Rob Littlepage are returning and are very excited to teach virtually. There may be some slight changes to enhance the virtual experience such as quizzes and polls. The landscape audit portion of the training will be conducted virtually using video, both pre-recorded and during the class. The exam will be conducted online through MonitorEDU.

USEPA WaterSense has provided approval through December 31, 2021 for the following changes to the QWEL exam and options to the audit. The QWEL exam may be offered online using Proctorio or MonitorEDU or in-person with social distancing and safety precautions. The QWEL audit can be offered in person with social distancing and safety precautions; independently supervised by another QWEL certified individual (at the discretion of the PCO); or virtually using a video and PDF or online worksheet.

RWA will be sending out promotional materials next week. Please help us promote the training. Contact Monica Garcia with any questions.

- **Eagle Aerial Update**

RWA hosted 2 separate Eagle Aerial presentations on July 14<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the company's WaterView product. Since then, several RWA agencies have expressed interest in obtaining quotes for this product. RWA secured the quotes and delivered them to the interested agencies. At this time, there seems to be limited interest in pursuing a regional approach based on the quotes received. There will be opportunities for discounts now and in the future through a partnership with the California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP). Perhaps this project could be the focus of a future grant application for the region to help supplement the product cost.

- **Public Outreach Trainings/Workshops Survey Results**

RWA is considering hosting virtual customer trainings this fall and winter and would like to get some consensus on what topics the RWEPAC would like covered. A survey was sent out on September 1<sup>st</sup> to all Water Efficiency Program agencies to access interest. Survey results will be presented at the RWEPAC meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

- **Rachio Update**

We held the Rachio Customer Training on August 25, 2020 from noon to 1. RWA sent the training notice to all customers that have purchased a Rachio controller through the regional program, to our BeWaterSmart eblast list, to former QWEL students for CEU hours, and we posted on the BeWaterSmart website and enlisted all Water Efficiency Program suppliers to promote to their customers. The training was recorded and had a total of 27 attendees.

Through August 2020, we have spent \$125,000 of our \$150,000 budget. We are dedicating up to an additional \$50,000 of grant funds to get us through the scheduled fall promotion. We anticipate the fully grant funded regional program will wrap up at the end of the year. At this point, individual suppliers can decide if they would like to continue the program with local funding. Due to our partnership with BAWSCA, RWA has extended the time period of our contract (which was set to expire in February 2021) until February 2022.