

RWA Water Efficiency Program Update

March 9, 2021

- **20 X 2020 Status**

The Water Conservation Act of 2009 (SB X7-7) requires that Urban Retail Water Suppliers submit their 2020 gallons per capita per day (GPCD) status as part of their 2020 Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs). Compliance with this legislation is assessed by comparing 2020 GPCD with each individual supplier's 2020 target (previously determined and confirmed in 2015 UWMPs). RWA is tracking supplier's 2020 GPCD status. We have received 2020 GPCD data from 10 suppliers to date. Please send your data to Amy if you have not already.

- **Rachio Rebate**

The regional Rachio rebate is continuing until June 2021 or until the grant funding runs out. We have funding for 400 more controllers that will be distributed on a first come first served basis. To date, the regional program has distributed 1,400 controllers. The top 3 agencies with the most controllers purchased through the program are City of Folsom, San Juan Water District and City of Roseville. The customer website for this program is: www.rwa.rachio.com/

- **Public Outreach Update**

We will be focusing on household leaks in March and then continuing with the Check and Save campaign in April through October but with some new resources for this year. Please join us for the special briefing on this year's outreach tools, messaging and media buys on March 18th at 10 am. You should have already received attendee information from Christine. If you haven't, please let me know. The presentation during our RWEFAC meeting will provide a preview. Agencies will also receive an email soon with the updated online toolkit. RWA hosted a regional drought planning meeting last week with general managers, efficiency staff and communications staff. There were presentations on the current and projected status of our region's various water supply sources followed by discussion on determining dry year status and finally associated dry year customer messaging. To date, no official regional action has been taken to declare a dry/drought year. However, we will be updating our dry year messaging talking points based on the meeting's discussion and will be sending it back out to the group soon.

- **Regional Water Efficiency Program (WEP) Budget**

The fiscal year (FY) 2022 Water Efficiency Program budget will not have an increase in dues. FY 2022 covers activity from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. We will discuss the budget in more detail at the May RWEFAC meeting.

- **SB 606/AB 1668 Conservation Regulation**

The implementation of Senate Bill 606/Assembly Bill 1668 continues. We are now in the regulation development phase. DWR is hosting multiple meetings to cover the various regulation topics including indoor, outdoor and CII. The presentation during the RWEFAC will go into more detail and provide upcoming meeting schedules. To further complicate the situation, a new bill [Assembly Bill 1434](#) was introduced on February 19th and proposes to decrease the indoor water

use standard. RWA is working to better understand the intent of the bill and is formulating an official response. RWA hosted a regional landscape meeting to coordinate discussion on how agencies are reviewing their DWR landscape data. We will likely schedule another regional meeting to discuss the recently released draft water use equation options for calculating an agency's outdoor budget. Finally, the CII meetings are kicking off on March 22nd and will continue to meet the 4th Monday of the month through June 2021. The State Water Board has scheduled a public workshop for March 24th to discuss the 3rd party peer review results of the draft economic model and association regulation.

Additional Updates

- **Regional Grant**

Proposition 1/Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Agreement is in the final review process. We are expecting a signed contract in 2-4 weeks. At that point, we will send out individual agency/RWA agreements for agencies that want to participate in the pass through rebates programs. The water efficiency program will host a separate meeting to walk through what is available with this grant for agencies in May 2021.

- **Water Forum**

The Water Forum Agreement is in the process of being renegotiated. The renegotiation of the conservation element and the associated workgroup meetings have been placed on hold for the foreseeable future. We will provide an update on when they will be continued as available.

- **Renter Utility Bill Assistance Program**

The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) is offering emergency rent and utilities assistance to Sacramento County renters impacted by COVID-19. The deadline for customers to apply is March 19. A promotional flyer is available from SHRA in multiple languages here: <https://www.shra.org/sera2-program-flyer/>. An email with additional information and promotional materials has been sent by RWA to general managers and water efficiency staff. SHRA is requesting that agencies send RWA a contact in their billing department that can be reached by SHRA staff in the event a rental customer requests assistance for water bill payment.

- **Flume/Ewing Partnership**

Ewing now has an exclusive relationship with Flume to sell their Flume 2 to contractors at a preferred price point which is better than their direct purchase price online. Individual homeowners would continue to purchase at the online price. Contact Tom (info below) if you are interested in purchasing units on a bulk basis. I emailed a flyer about this program last week.

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