

Vandenberg Village Community Services District

# Water Conservation Program

**Background:** Vandenberg Village Community Services District (VVCSD) established a water conservation program in March 1996.

Initially, the program consisted of ultra low-flow toilet retrofit rebates, free minor water-saving fixtures, and education. A total of 848 ultra low-flow toilet retrofits were accomplished through June 2007. A demonstration garden that showcases sustainable plants and synthetic turf was installed in May 2007.

This revision to the Water Conservation Program builds and expands upon the original program as well as providing rebates for additional water conservation features.

**Purpose:** The purposes of the Water Conservation Program are:

To reduce demand and promote efficient use of the District's groundwater supply so there is a sustainable water source for present and future residents.

To require future development to participate in water conservation efforts by either retrofitting existing properties or contributing in-lieu fees so development does not increase the District's net consumption of groundwater.

**Applicability:** The program applies to residents, property owners, schools, and developers in Vandenberg Village.

Rebates will be made for toilets purchased and installed after June 7, 1996.

Rebates for all other features of the program will be made for items purchased and installed after July 1, 2007.

**Funds:** The principle source of funds for this program is in-lieu fees paid by developers. The District may supplement the program with funds from its annual operating budget, grants, or other sources.

The District will maintain these funds in a separate water conservation account.

**Program Administration:** District staff is responsible for administering the program.

The General Manager, through the District's can and will serve process, will determine the net consumptive use for new developments and ensure developers mitigate it through participation in this program.

The Water Conservation Coordinator is responsible for promoting the program and administering customer rebates.

The Water Conservation Coordinator will develop lists of eligible customers requesting rebates within the scope of the program. As long as sufficient funds are available, rebates will be made on a first-come, first-served basis regardless of the category of rebate.

The Water/Wastewater Committee will periodically review the effectiveness of the program and recommend changes to the Board of Directors.

If funds in the water conservation account are limited or depleted, the District reserves the right to suspend rebates and create a waiting list. Staff will notify customers by newsletter, bill notices, or first class mail and advise them not to commit funds in anticipation of future rebates.

**Coordination and Participation with Other Agencies:** The District may contribute funds and participate in water conservation efforts of other agencies such as Santa Barbara County (water efficiency programs), the Groundwater Foundation, and the Water Education Foundation.

With prior approval of the Board of Directors, grants may be awarded to Lompoc Unified School District faculty or students in Vandenberg Village for water conservation activities.

**Performance Period for Rebates:** Customers who are notified of funds available for rebate shall have 120 days from the date of their confirmation letter to furnish receipts documenting the installation of the program feature. If after 120 days customers fail to furnish such receipts and documentation, their names will be removed from the list of eligibles for rebates. They may reapply at the bottom of the list to establish new eligibility.

**Inspection of Installations:** The District reserves the right, at the discretion of the General Manager, to inspect the installation prior to and as a condition of a rebate. The purpose of the inspection shall be to ensure the removal of the old features and the installation of qualifying features.

**Definitions:**

*Developer:* The party or agent that has a real property ownership or interest in undeveloped property within the District boundaries (or LAFCO approved sphere of influence) where the property does not have, and has not had, a water and/or wastewater connection to the District's water or wastewater systems, and who desires water and/or wastewater service.

*New Connection:* A proposed connection to the District's water and/or wastewater systems which is desired but does not presently exist, nor has it existed in the past and become inactive. An increase in the size or capacity of an existing service connection is considered a new connection, whereas a decrease in service size or capacity is not considered a new connection for purposes of this program.

*Single Family Equivalent (SFE):* The annual average monthly amount of water, measured in hundreds of cubic feet per month (ccf/mo), used by all residential single family connections to the District's water system regardless of size of meter. The SFE calculation is published in the district ordinance on water and wastewater connection fees.

**Requirements for Developers:** Developers shall either purchase fixtures and install/retrofit entire properties with ultra low-flow toilets, low flow showerheads, and kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators; or pay an in-lieu fee to offset the net consumptive use of water for the development.

For purposes of evaluating water balance and calculating net consumptive use for developments, it will be assumed that 75 percent of the water sent to the wastewater treatment plant will percolate into the Lompoc Plain Sub-Basin and will be considered as recharge and not consumption. [Source: "Revised Water Balance for Providence Landing" prepared by Todd Engineers, January 24, 2003]

The developer may opt to pay an in-lieu fee sufficient to fund the number of single family residential customer retrofits necessary to offset the net consumptive use of the proposed development.

The American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AWWARF) 1999 Residential End Use Water Study was the reference used to determine the program level shall be retrofits of 10 existing residences to offset each SFE of net consumptive use.

Approximate costs used to calculate the water conservation in-lieu fee.

Toilets, Ultra-low flow plus hardware, 2 each per SFE	\$ 100.00 each	\$ 200.00
Toilet installation cost, 2 each per SFE	60.00 each	120.00
Administrative Cost per SFE *	93.50	93.50
Shower Heads, low-flow, 2 each per SFE	6.00 each	12.00
Aerators, faucet, 3 each per SFE	1.50 each	4.50
	<b>TOTAL per SFE</b>	<b>\$ 430.00</b>

\*Includes staff time to communicate the program to residents and other water conservation efforts.

The in-lieu fee for each new SFE connection to the District's water system shall be:

$$(10 \text{ residences}) \times (\$430 \text{ per residence}) = \mathbf{\$4,300 \text{ per SFE}}$$

For new connections other than single family homes, the proposed development's (commercial, industrial, public, etc.) estimated use will be converted to an equivalent SFE calculation and used to determine the developer's retrofit requirement.

Based on historical experience in Vandenberg Village, apartments and condominiums/townhouses use about one-third of the amount of water used by a single family residence. For purposes of estimating water consumption, one SFE equals three condominiums/townhouses or three apartments.

Developer in-lieu fees will be collected in the District's water conservation account and expended only for water conservation purposes addressed in this program or as otherwise authorized by the Board of Directors.

## Program Features

**Toilet Rebates:** Only ultra low-flow toilets using 1.6 gallons or less per flush or high-efficiency toilets (HETs) using 1.3 gallons or less per flush that meet current plumbing and building codes will be eligible for rebates. To receive a toilet rebate, customer must furnish paid receipts for toilets and installation costs to the District office. Staff will verify the adequacy of the receipts. Upon verification that the program requirements have been met, the District will issue a rebate check to the applicant or credit the customer's account up to \$160.00 per toilet.

All classifications of customers, except special irrigation accounts, will be eligible for toilet rebates for an unlimited number of toilets and the free issue of up to two (2) low-flow showerheads per account. Bulk metered condominiums/townhouses will be eligible for rebates on a per dwelling unit basis as if they were single-family metered accounts. Bulk metered apartments are eligible for rebates for an unlimited number of toilets per domestic service meter, and the free issue of up to two (2) showerheads per apartment unit.

**Clothes Washer Rebates:** Only high-efficiency clothes washers with a water factor of 9.5 or less are eligible for rebates. The customer must provide paid receipts for the clothes washer to the District office. Staff will verify the adequacy of the receipts. Upon verification that the program requirements have been met, the District will issue a rebate check to the applicant or credit the customer's account in the amount of \$150.00.

**Cash For Grass:** Customers may receive a rebate to replace their grass with low water usage plants, rocks, and/or synthetic turf. To receive a rebate, customers must provide paid receipts for low water use plants, rocks, or synthetic turf; and provide pictures before and after the grass is removed. Staff will verify the adequacy of the receipts.

Upon verification that the program requirements have been met, the District will issue a rebate check to the applicant or credit the customer's account up to \$2.00 per square foot with a \$1,000.00 maximum.

**Evapotranspiration (ET) Irrigation Controllers:** ET controllers save water by automatically creating a weekly irrigation schedule based on evapotranspiration data from local weather stations. The District will provide a free ET controller to high water users (over 1,000 ccf/mo dedicated to irrigation use). The customer is responsible for paying the monthly subscription fee.

**Shower Heads, Faucet Aerators, and Other Devices:** The District will stock shower heads, faucet aerators, and other water-saving devices and make them available for free distribution to District residents.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Vandenberg Village Community Services District on November 6, 2007.

ATTEST:

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Donald Rowland  
President, Board of Directors

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Stephanie Vlahos-Rivera  
Secretary to the Board of Directors