



Turf Replacement & Project Assistance for Public Agencies



Fallbrook Public Utility District Conservation Garden

This Metropolitan program provides public agencies with incentives and assistance to replace turf on public properties with landscape designs that incorporate water-saving plants, efficient irrigation systems and rainwater retention features. The result is a showcase for water efficiency and sustainable landscaping as well as financial savings. The rebate starts at **\$4 per square foot** and may be more depending on additional local water agency incentives.

Eligibility

A public agency is any federal, state, regional or local governmental entity, agency or department, including any special district, joint powers authority, city, county, or other political subdivision of the State located within Metropolitan's service area.

- Projects must have a minimum of 250 square feet of turf removed.
- A maximum of 200,000 square feet of turf per project site is eligible for funding each fiscal year.
- There is a limit of 1 application per site per year.
- Proposed project areas irrigated with recycled water are eligible unless exempted by the Metropolitan member agency.

Program Requirements

Turf replacement projects must include:

- Three California Friendly® and native plants per 100 square feet of lawn transformed.
- A stormwater retention feature to help keep water in the landscape when it rains. Rock gardens and rain barrels are among several sustainable landscaping approaches available.
- Permeable hardscapes that allow water to flow through the surface and slowly filter into the ground.
- A replacement or modification of overhead spray sprinklers to a more water efficient irrigation system. Drip, micro-spray, bubblers, or rotating nozzles are all efficient irrigation methods.

Free Project Assistance

Metropolitan helps with turf replacement project development and implementation at no cost to the public agency applicant. This includes assistance with request for proposals, scope of work, budget, contractor solicitation, grant funding requests, timeline and rebate application tracking. Interested agencies can complete an online project assistance request form on [socalwatersmart.com](https://www.socalwatersmart.com)

Sustainable Landscaping

Sustainable landscaping approaches capture rainwater to help keep it in the landscape and reduce runoff onto sidewalks and streets. This helps to also establish organic, drought tolerant soil. Here are some methods that meet this program requirement:

BERMS – Mounds of earth with sloping sides that are located between areas of approximately the same elevation. Berms direct or redirect drainage to keep water from quickly flowing off the property.

DRY RIVERBEDS – An area designed to slow the speed of stormwater with large chunks of stone that help prevent erosion. It is made up of a shallow swale (see vegetated swales) lined with stone substantial enough to withstand a serious downpour. The dry riverbed or stream should have enough of a side slope that the difference between level ground and the lowest point in the dry riverbed is clearly visible.

RAIN BARREL/CISTERNS – Storage units connected to rain gutters and downspouts that collect rainwater from a catchment area like a rooftop. Sites must have existing gutters throughout the perimeter of the roof for adequate water collection, as well as existing downspouts. Rain barrels and cisterns must be properly installed to meet all local and regional requirements. Existing rain barrels and cisterns may qualify for the turf replacement rebate.

RAIN GARDENS – A planted depression or a hollow filled with loose soil that allows storm water runoff from roofs, walkways and parking lots to be absorbed into the ground instead of flowing into storm drains. Rain gardens help reduce erosion, pollution and flooding.

ROCK GARDENS – A shallow depression filled with 1-3-inch diameter gravel. This depression should have enough of a side slope that the difference between level ground and the lowest point in the rock garden is clearly visible. Rainwater is stored in the space between the stones and eventually seeps into the soil. Plants are distributed throughout and there is no ponding area – so one can walk on it.

VEGETATED SWALE – A shallow ditch with gently sloping sides that create a ditch that is visibly lower than the surrounding landscape. Swales rely on gravity to move water to specific areas in the landscape and a minimum 2% slope from beginning to end is recommended. Native perennial grasses are planted along the bottom and sides of the swale to slow runoff, filter sediments and remove excess nutrients.



Application Details

- Synthetic turf or any plant that appears to be turf is not allowed. This rule applies because installation is often verified by photographs.
- Applicants have 180 days to complete the project and are responsible for complying with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions and restrictions. Additional time may be given for larger projects on a case by case basis
- Agencies will be asked to provide documentation that verifies their status as a public agency.

Questions

Please contact socialwatersmart.com (operators are available to answer questions in several languages) at 888.376.3314.



SoCal Water\$mart is a region-wide program brought to you by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Local water agencies may offer other incentive program opportunities. Rebates will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted.



About Metropolitan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative that, along with its 26 cities and retail suppliers, provide water for 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.

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