



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	1/10/2023
AGENDA SECTION:	Consent Calendar
SUBJECT:	Resolution No. 10969 - A Resolution Authorizing the Environmental and Water Resources Department to Continue Current Rebate Programs for City Water Customers and Appropriation of Funds
FROM:	Environmental and Water Resources Department

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

The Environmental and Water Resources Department recommends the City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 10969 - A Resolution Authorizing the Environmental and Water Resources Department to Continue Current Rebate Programs for City Water Customers and Appropriation of Funds.

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

The City of Folsom receives its water supply from the American River at Folsom Reservoir. On May 10, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation of a State of Emergency to mitigate the effects of drought conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed counties including El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter and Yolo. On October 19, 2021, Governor Newsom issued a proclamation of a state of emergency related to a second consecutive drought that remains in effect.

On August 16, 2021, the City issued a Stage 3 water conservation declaration calling for up to a 20% reduction in water use compared to 2020. The City prepared a Folsom Saves campaign to help City water customers reduce water usage which included several rebate programs and incentives. This resolution will authorize the Environmental and Water Resources Department to continue current rebate programs for City water customers and appropriation of funds for \$150,000.

POLICY / RULE

In accordance with Chapter 3.02.030H of the Folsom Municipal Code, supplemental appropriations may be made by the City Council.

ANALYSIS

On July 8, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Executive Order N-10-21 requesting that all Californians voluntarily reduce water use by 15 percent from their 2020 levels. The Executive Order also encouraged California water customers to visit www.saveourwater.com to find simple ways to reduce water use.

On August 16, 2021, the City issued a Stage 3 water conservation declaration calling for up to a 20% reduction in water use compared to 2020. The mandatory water use restrictions for residents and businesses include:

- Landscape and hand watering is limited to two designated days per week. Drip irrigation may be conducted on any day.
- Washing of parking lots, streets, driveways, or sidewalks is prohibited.
- The use of city water for construction purposes without city approval is prohibited.
- Restaurants are required to only serve water upon request.
- All pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds shall be equipped with a recirculation pump.
- Pool draining and refilling shall be allowed only to the extent required for health, maintenance, or structural considerations.

The City prepared a Folsom Saves campaign to help City water customers reduce water usage. This campaign includes a road map to water savings with specific actions that water customers can take indoors and outdoors to conserve water. With Stage 3 restrictions still in place, the City continues to promote the Folsom Saves campaign by offering several water rebates and services to help our customers reduce water usage. These are described below:

1. Water Wise House Calls – Receive a visit from one of the City’s water conservation specialists and learn how to reduce water use indoors and outdoors.
2. Commercial Water and Large Landscape Irrigation Surveys – These surveys identify potential water savings and rebates available to our business and commercial customers and provide a review of outdoor irrigation systems and recommend ways to be more water efficient.
3. Rachio Smart Controller Rebate – The City offers residents a rebate to purchase this smart controller for a reduced rate of \$75 plus tax (nearly a 65 percent savings).
4. Irrigation Efficiency Upgrade Rebate – Residents can receive up to \$500 to upgrade current outdoor irrigation systems with efficient equipment, including irrigation controllers, sprinkler nozzles or drip system retrofits.

5. High Efficiency Toilet Rebate – Residents can receive up to \$175 to upgrade existing toilets with high efficiency models.
6. Cash for Grass – Turf Replacement Rebate – The City provides a rebate of up to \$2,000 per address to incentivize converting water-thirsty lawns to water-efficient landscapes.
7. Flume Smart Home Water Monitoring Device Rebate – The City provides a rebate to City water customers for the installation of a smart home water monitoring device that alerts customers of potential leaks or abnormal water usage.

Each of the programs is intended to reduce overall water use within the City and help achieve up to a 20% reduction in water use. These programs address the short-term water conservation requirements and also provide long-term water savings.

The Environmental and Water Resources Department recommends the City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 10969 - A Resolution Authorizing the Environmental and Water Resources Department to Continue Current Rebate Programs for City Water Customers and Appropriation of Funds.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The water operating budget has covered costs of these rebates through the first half of Fiscal Year 2022-23, but funding for the remainder will require an additional appropriation of \$150,000. The initial costs will be from the Water Operating Fund (Fund 520) and at the end of the fiscal year the Water Impact Fund (Fund 456) will reimburse the Water Operating Fund for the rebates. One of the allowed expenses for the Water Impact Fund is expenses due to dry years. The EWR Department has sufficient funds in the Water Operating Fund (Fund 520) and the Water Impact Fund (Fund 456) for this appropriation and additional transfer.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

These programs are exempt from CEQA under Section 15061 (b)(3) and are not considered projects.

ATTACHMENT

Resolution No. 10969 - A Resolution Authorizing the Environmental and Water Resources Department to Continue Current Rebate Programs for City Water Customers and Appropriation of Funds

Submitted,

Marcus Yasutake, Director
ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 10969

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE CURRENT REBATE PROGRAMS FOR CITY WATER CUSTOMERS AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

WHEREAS, the State of California is experiencing continued drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, City of Folsom Stage 3 water conservation restrictions calling for up to a 20% reduction in water use have not been lifted; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental and Water Resources Department offers various rebates to help customers reduce water use; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds were not included in the FY 2022-23 Water Operating Budget to cover the costs of rebates based on the customer participation in the fiscal year to date; and

WHEREAS, an appropriation in the amount of \$150,000 is needed for the remainder of FY 2022-23 and funds are available in the Water Operating Fund (Fund 520) and in the Water Impact Fund (Fund 456) as a transfer to the Water Operating Fund; and

WHEREAS, the implementing agreements, where applicable, will be in a form acceptable to the City Attorney;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Folsom authorizes the Environmental and Water Resources Department to Continue Current Rebate Programs for City Water Customers and Appropriation of Funds in the amount of \$150,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Director is authorized to appropriate an additional \$150,000 in the Water Operating Fund (Fund 520) and in the Water Impact Fund (Fund 456) as a transfer to the Water Operating Fund.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of January 2023, by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Councilmember(s):
NOES: Councilmember(s):
ABSENT: Councilmember(s):
ABSTAIN: Councilmember(s):

Rosario Rodriguez, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK

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CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE