



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Communications & Water Efficiency Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Water Efficiency Incentives - Flume and Rachio Direct Distribution Programs
From: Paul Sellier, Director of Water Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: November 20, 2024

TYPE OF ACTION: Action Information X Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Review and refer to a future regularly scheduled Board meeting for consideration of approval of two agreements with California Water Efficiency Partnership to provide funding for Flume devices, RainBird irrigation controllers and Rachio irrigation controllers for the next two years in an amount not to exceed \$205,792.00

SUMMARY: The Flume and the Rachio Direct Distribution Programs continue to be a widely popular program with District customers. Over 500 Flume devices and over 150 RainBird and Rachio irrigation controllers have been purchased through 2024. These agreements will deposit funds with the California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) to provide funding for the next two (2) years of anticipated program participation.

DISCUSSION: The Flume point-of-purchase program, offered through CalWEP, allows single-family residential customers to purchase a Smart Home Water Monitor directly from Flume at a discounted price. Flume devices offer an effective and immediately available tool to help customers manage their water consumption. Flume also has an add on option to purchase a discounted Rainbird irrigation controller which syncs irrigation water use with the Flume device. The District's current contribution is \$136 and the customer co-payment is \$94 at checkout (reduced to \$69 after a \$25 refund following installation). The Rainbird irrigation controller has a \$100 contribution from the District, and the customer pays \$50 (plus tax) at checkout. A total of 3,088 Flume devices have been installed as of November 2024 and 1,828 remain active. The current contract expires December 31, 2024. The proposed agreement will provide \$162,192 in funding for 400 Flume devices and 200 Rainbird controllers each year during the next 2 years.

The Rachio irrigation controller point-of-purchase program offered through CalWEP, allows single-family residential customers to purchase a Rachio Smart Irrigation Controller directly from Rachio at a discounted price. Rachio controllers self-adjust based on weather conditions to increase irrigation efficiency for customers and help manage their irrigation water use. The District's current contribution is \$100 per controller, and the customer co-payment ranges from \$69.99 to \$89.99 (plus tax) at

checkout, depending on the Rachio model chosen. The current contract expires December 31, 2024. The proposed agreement will provide \$43,600 in funding for 200 Rachio irrigation controllers, each year, during the next 2 years.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: The proposed contracts will provide \$162,192 in funding for Flume devices and Rainbird controllers and \$43,600 for Rachio smart controllers over the next two years. These funds are included in the Water Efficiency budget.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.