

Long Beach WATER



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, April 12, 2013

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Long Beach Water Department Increases Funding for Residential and Commercial Lawn Removal Projects

Qualified applicants are now eligible to receive \$3.00 per square foot of grass removed, or up to \$3,000 total per project

LONG BEACH, CA – Yesterday, the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners voted unanimously to increase the amount of funding that Long Beach residents and businesses are eligible to receive for replacing their grass lawns with California-Friendly landscapes through the Long Beach Water Department’s Lawn to Garden (L2G) Program.

New applicants to the L2G Program will now receive \$3.00 per square foot of grass lawn removed, up from the previous funding level of \$2.50 per square foot. The program funds the first 1,000 square feet of lawn removed for each project, meaning that customers who apply for the full incentive amount will receive \$3,000 to defray many of the costs associated with removing a grass lawn and installing a drought-tolerant landscape in its place.

“We are very excited to offer our customers increased funding for their Lawn to Garden projects,” said John Allen, President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners. “Removing water-thirsty grass from our homes and businesses is one of the most effective and inexpensive things we can do here in Southern California to permanently strengthen the reliability of our water supplies,” added Mr. Allen.

Nearly 850 landscape transformations have been completed in Long Beach through the award-winning and nationally-recognized program since it was first introduced three years ago. The Water Department expects to celebrate the completion of the city’s 1,000th successful project in late 2013 or early 2014. The Department also estimates that hundreds of additional customers have transformed their landscapes outside of the program.

“I highly encourage our customers to take advantage of this tremendous opportunity,” said Kevin Wattier, General Manager for the Long Beach Water Department. “As far as we know there is no

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other city or water agency in California that comes anywhere close to offering \$3.00 per square foot for turf removal that our program does,” added Mr. Wattier.

The Board’s action to increase funding for the L2G program comes on the heels of the driest recorded January and February in California. In a typical year, Long Beach receives an average of 12 inches of rain. So far this year, Long Beach has only received half of that, with about a month left to go in the rainy season. Last year was exceptionally dry as well.

Funding for the program comes through a partnership between the Long Beach Water Department and the [Metropolitan Water District of Southern California](#) (MWD). In addition to funding lawn removal projects for residential and commercial customers, a number of larger-scale projects throughout the city have already been completed or are in the works. The Boeing Company recently completed a landscape conversion project at one of its facilities, while the Army National Guard property located on Redondo Avenue is going through the third and final phase of a project that is replacing vast swaths of grass with California-Friendly plants and walking paths on its site.

For customers that may be interested in drought-tolerant landscaping and the L2G program and who want to see how these landscapes look up close, the Water Department will be hosting its second annual Long Beach Lawn to Garden Tour on Saturday, May 18th from 10AM to 2PM. Over 30 homes that completed projects through the L2G Program will be on display throughout the city. The tour is free and open to the public. To RSVP for the tour, or to apply for the L2G Program, please visit www.lblawntogarden.com.

The [Long Beach Water Department](#) is an urban, southern California, retail water supply agency and the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship.

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