

LANDSCAPING INCENTIVES

City Council has asked the Economic Development Committee to propose landscaping incentives to encourage the use of xeriscaping by non-residential customers. This comes directly from the Coppel 2030 Plan.

GOAL: Revitalizing Neighborhoods

WORK PLAN ELEMENT: Develop incentive program for non-residential users to landscape using xeriscape materials

Studied incentive policies from cities across the country. Most are geared toward residential users. Here are the most frequently used incentives for commercial users:

Rebate programs

Grass Replacement:

- San Diego, CA - \$2.00 per square foot to replace existing grass with water wise landscapes
 - o Minimum 1,000 sq. ft. per site
 - o Maximum 30,000 sq. ft. and \$60,000 per site
- SoCal - \$2.00 per sq. ft. to replace grass with drought tolerant plants
- East Bay – Up to \$20,000 to convert high water use lawns to sustainable landscaping

Micro-Irrigation Rebates:

- San Diego, CA - \$0.30 per sq. ft. to convert an existing overhead spray sprinkler system to a low application rate micro-irrigation
 - o Minimum 1,000 sq. ft.
 - o Maximum 8,000 sq. ft. and \$2,400 per site
- SoCal - \$4.00 per nozzle to replace inefficient watering systems with high-efficiency rotating nozzles
- East Bay – Up to \$20,000 to convert sprinklers to drip irrigation and replace conventional sprinkler nozzles with high-efficiency rotating nozzles

Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers (WBICS) Rebates:

- SOCAL - WBICS allow for more accurate, customized irrigation by automatically adjusting the schedule and amount of water in response to changing weather conditions
 - o \$35 per station for more than 1 acre of landscape
 - o \$80 per controller for less than 1 acre of landscaping
- East Bay – Up to \$20,000 to:
 - o Replace conventional irrigation timers with smart controllers (self-adjusting irrigation controllers)
 - o Install pressure regulators to improve system performance
 - o Install submeters to improve leak detection and irrigation management