



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
March 4, 2009**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Tim Tucker, City Engineer

SUBJECT: Allocate Funds to Implement a Drought Management Program

DATE: February 24, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolution allocating \$90,000 from account C7018 to implement a Drought Management Program.

BACKGROUND:

California is in its third consecutive dry year. The City's raw water supplier, Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), is facing major reductions in their water allocations. On February 20, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released their initial water supply information, for the Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors. CCWD is the largest municipal contractor of the CVP. Based on precipitation through February 1, the Bureau of Reclamation announced that CCWD would receive 50% of contracted supply.

In an effort to promote conservation, CCWD is proposing a penalty system for water customers that do not meet reduction goals. This penalty system not only applies to their treated water customers but also retailers such as Antioch, Pittsburg and Martinez that purchase and treat raw water. Staff met with the Water Subcommittee. Staff and the Subcommittee propose that the Martinez Water District implement a Drought Management Program (Program) similar to that being implemented by CCWD with their treated water customers. The Program:

- Focuses on reducing outside water usage, while minimizing impacts on jobs and the economy.
- Does not raise rates. Customers who meet their conservation targets will realize savings on their bill.
- Applies only to customers who do not meet their conservation targets. They will pay more in the form of penalty charges. Penalty charge revenue will be used to offset extraordinary drought expenditures.

Customers who meet the conservation goals under the drought program will save money due to their reduced usage. The proposed penalty charge will be based on a sliding scale. The first 10% of water used above the goal will be charged at four times the quantity charge rate. Any water used above that will be charged ten-times the quantity charge components of the City's adopted rates. The current quantity charge for the City's treated water customers is \$0.386 per hundred gallons, which is not changing. If a penalty charge is approved on April 15, 2009 the penalty charge would become effective on May 1, 2009. Water use from 2005, 2006 and 2007 will be averaged to create a baseline amount for each customer. The reduction goals are as follows:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>% Reduction</u>
Industrial customers	5%
Commercial	15%
Multi Family Residential	20%
Public Authority	25%
Landscape Irrigation (metered)	50%
Single Family Residential (gal/day)	
0 to 125	0%
126-300	15%
301-500	30%
501-700	40%
Over 700	60%

The City has been proactive in publicizing the need to reduce water consumption. Information is posted on the front page of our web site (cityofmartinez.org). Water bill inserts announcing the drought program are currently going out. CCWD has issued press releases and staff has conducted newspaper interviews. In addition, public hearing notices have been mailed and staff will be sending letters to our 100 highest water user customers.

To better help our customers manage their water use we are doing a major modification to our billing software. Our bills will show historical average use in gallons per day. It will also show customers current use and their goal for the up coming months. The billing system must also be modified to show penalty charges. In addition Water Treatment Plant staff is attending water conservation training. The City is hiring a temporary employee that will provide individual home evaluations.

Attached are water conservation tips and information. Water conservation kits and additional information is now available at our finance window upstairs at City Hall. The City also helps fund conservation programs managed by CCWD. Vouchers are available from CCWD to obtain high efficiency toilets. We also partner with PG&E in offering rebates for certain water and energy saving washers. There are "easy to find" links on the City's web site regarding these programs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are savings available in the Fluoride Injection System Account (C7018) that can be transferred to the Water Administrative Division to fund the needed expenditures.

Software upgrades (acct. 5300)	\$65,000
Public mailings/Public information (acct. 5500)	\$10,000
Temporary help (acct. 5300)	\$15,000

Funding will be transferred from savings in the Fluoride Injection System project (C7018).

ACTION:

Adopt resolution allocating \$90,000 from account C7018 to implement Drought Management Program.

Attachments:

Resolution

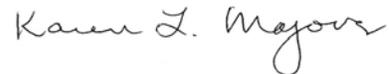
Water conservation tips

APPROVED BY:



City Manager

APPROVED BY:



Assistant City Manager Community &
Economic Development

RESOLUTION NO. -09

ALLOCATING \$90,000 FROM ACCOUNT C7018 TO IMPLEMENT A
DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez provides treated water to portions of Martinez and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the City receives untreated raw water from Contra Costa Water District (CCWD); and

WHEREAS, California has been in drought conditions for three consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, CCWD has been notified by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation that water supplies will be reduced up to 50 percent; and

WHEREAS, CCWD has developed a Drought Management Program that will require the City of Martinez and its customers to reduce water use; and

WHEREAS, it is prudent for the City of Martinez to implement a drought Management Plan similar to CCWD to meet conservation goal; and

WHEREAS, the cost of implementing the Drought Management Program is estimated to be \$90,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Martinez, that \$90,000 be transferred from saving in the Fluoride Injector System saving (Acct. C7018) to implement the City's Drought Management Program.

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Martinez at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on the 4th day of March, 2009 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RICHARD G. HERNANDEZ, CITY CLERK
CITY OF MARTINEZ

Water conservation tips

The City partners with Contra Costa Water District who offer several free water conservation devices -- including low-flow shower heads, hose nozzles and aerators for your sink -- just stop by their office at 1331 Concord Ave. in Concord. The City of Martinez has some of these free devices at City Hall (525 Henrietta Street)

Dishwashing

Wash only full loads

When replacing buy models that use less water and have energy saving cycles

If washing by hand do not let rinse water run.

Faucets

Fix leaking faucets

Don't run water when shaving or brushing teeth (don't shave in shower)

Install aerator

Showers

Fix leaking valves

Take shorter showers

Install low flow water heads with temporary shut off button (free from City)

Laundry

Wash only full loads

Adjust load cycle to match quantity of clothes

Take advantage of rebates

Toilets

Check for leaks

Install water bag (free kit from City)

Obtain voucher and replace old toilets (call Contra Costa Water District, web site)

Landscaping

Plant drought tolerant plant

Group plants that have similar water needs

Aerate lawns (minimize lawn areas)

Mulch 2-3 inches

Base watering on soil wetness not by observing plant condition

Note:

The residential High-Efficiency Washing Machine Rebate Program provides rebates of up to \$200 to customers who purchase new qualifying high-efficiency clothes washers.

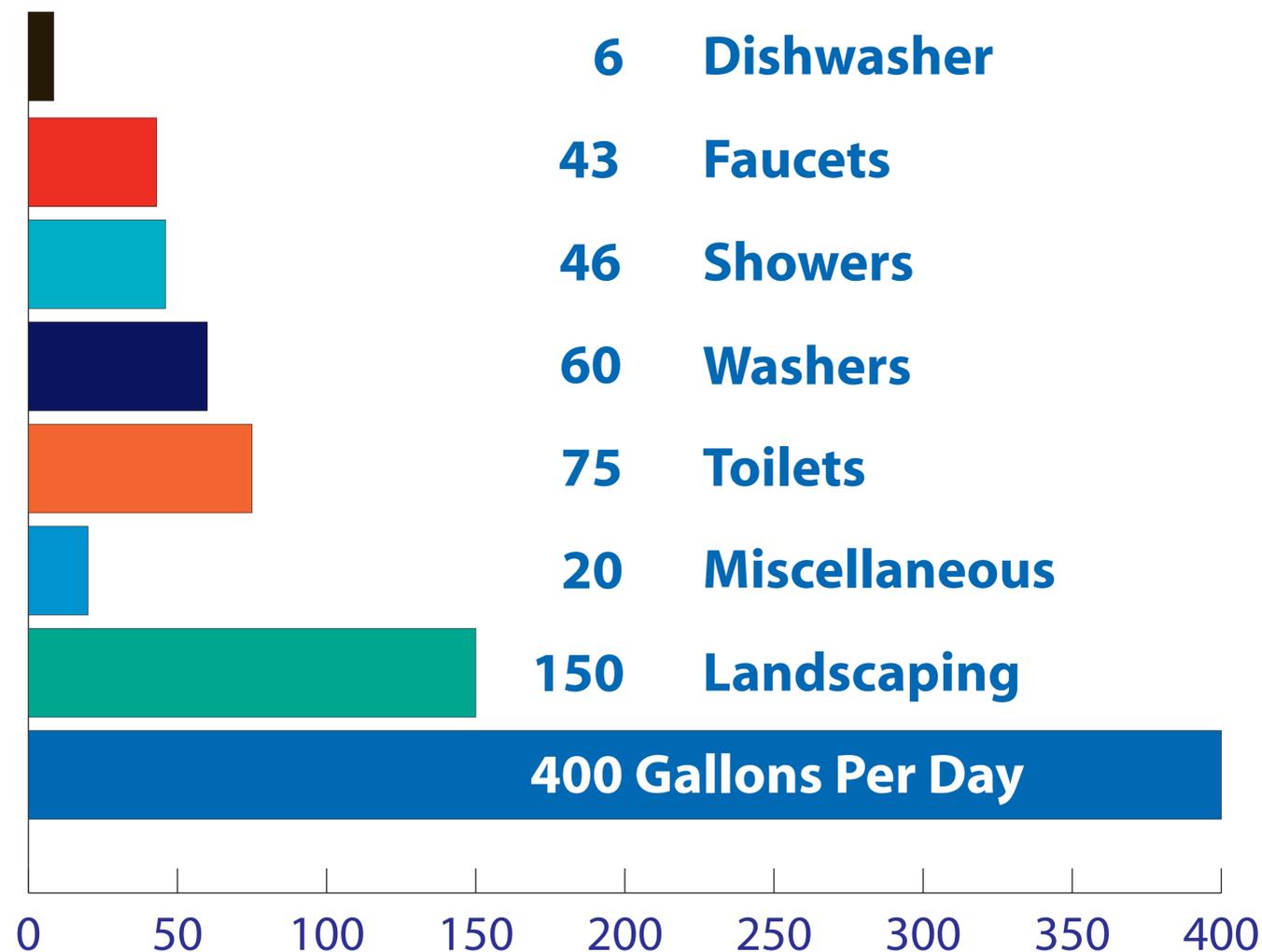
To help you save water and money every year, and to maximize water supplies, the Contra Costa Water District is offering \$175 instant rebates when you purchase a High Efficiency Toilet to replace an older high volume toilet.

See How Conservation Works



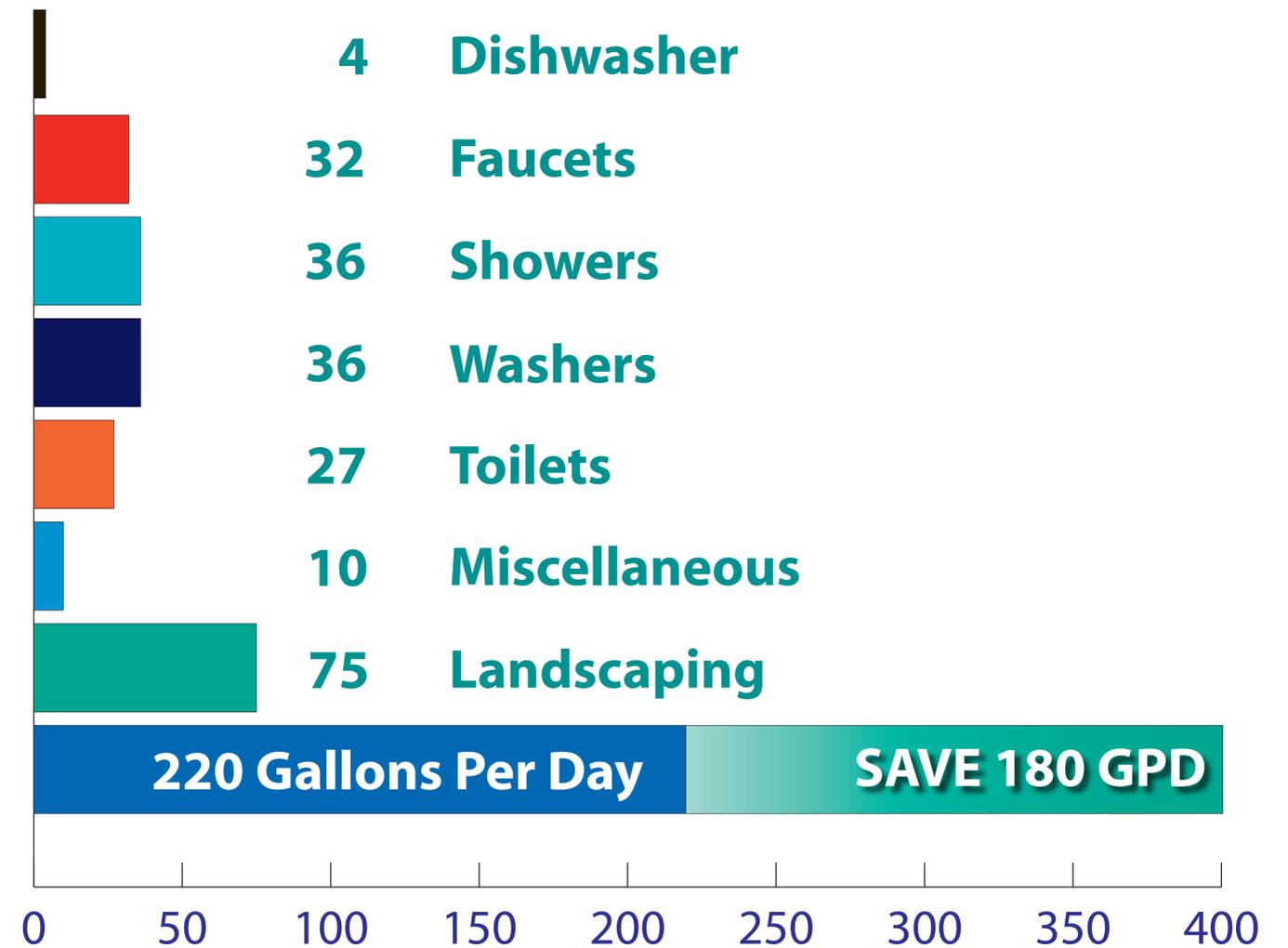
Typical Home Water Use

GALLONS PER DAY



Conserving Home Water Use

GALLONS PER DAY



A Typical Home can easily become a Conserving Home – Saving Water, Energy & Money!