

Vandenberg Village Community Services District

# Water Conservation Program

**Background:** Vandenberg Village Community Services District (VVCSD) established a water conservation program in March 1996. The program was expanded and revised in November 2007 and May 2014.

**Purposes:**

- To reduce demand and promote efficient use of the District's groundwater supply to ensure a sustainable water source for present and future residents.
- To require future development to participate in water conservation efforts by either retrofitting existing properties or contributing in-lieu fees so development does not increase the District's net consumption of groundwater.

**Applicability:** The program applies to residents, property owners, schools, and developers in Vandenberg Village.

**Funds:** The principle source of funds for this program is in-lieu fees paid by developers. The District may supplement the program with funds from its annual operating budget, grants, or other sources.

The District will maintain these funds in a separate water conservation account.

**Program Administration:** District staff is responsible for administering the program.

The General Manager, through the District's can and will serve process, will determine the net consumptive use for new developments and ensure developers mitigate it through participation in this program.

The Water Conservation Coordinator is responsible for promoting the program and administering customer rebates.

The Water Conservation Coordinator will develop lists of eligible customers requesting rebates within the scope of the program. As long as sufficient funds are available, rebates will be made on a first-come, first-served basis regardless of the category of rebate.

The Water/Wastewater Committee will periodically review the effectiveness of the program and recommend changes to the Board of Directors.

If funds in the water conservation account are limited or depleted, the District reserves the right to suspend rebates and create a waiting list. Staff will notify customers by

newsletter, bill notices, or first class mail and advise them not to commit funds in anticipation of future rebates.

**Coordination and Participation with Other Agencies:** The District may contribute funds and participate in water conservation efforts of other agencies such as Santa Barbara County (water efficiency programs), the Groundwater Foundation, and the Water Education Foundation.

With prior approval of the Board of Directors, grants may be awarded to Lompoc Unified School District faculty or students in Vandenberg Village for water conservation activities.

**Performance Period for Rebates:** Customers who are notified that funds are available for rebate shall have 120 days from the date of their confirmation letter to furnish receipts documenting the installation of the program feature. If customers fail to furnish receipts within 120 days, they will be removed from the rebate eligibility list. They may reapply at the bottom of the list to establish new eligibility.

**Inspection of Installations:** The District reserves the right, at the discretion of the General Manager, to inspect the installation prior to and as a condition of a rebate. The purpose of the inspection shall be to ensure the removal of the old features and the installation of qualifying features.

**Definitions:**

*Developer:* A party or agent that has a real property ownership or interest in undeveloped property within the District boundaries that does not have, nor has it had, a connection to the District's water distribution or wastewater collection systems.

*New Connection:* A proposed connection to the District's water distribution or wastewater collection system that was not there previously. An increase in the size or capacity of an existing service connection is considered a new connection, whereas a decrease in service size or capacity is not considered a new connection for purposes of this program.

*Single Family Equivalent (SFE):* The average volume of water, measured in hundred cubic feet per month (ccf/mo), used by all single family residential connections to the District's water system, regardless of meter size. The SFE is defined and adopted in the District's Code of Ordinances.

**Requirements for Developers:** Developers are required to purchase fixtures and install/retrofit 10 residences with high-efficiency toilets, low-flow shower heads, and faucet aerators, or pay an in-lieu fee, for every SFE of net consumptive water use for the proposed development.

The American Water Works Association Research Foundation 1999 Residential End Use Water Study was used in determining this requirement.

For purposes of evaluating water balance and calculating net consumptive use for developments, it is assumed that 75 percent of the wastewater sent to the Lompoc Regional Wastewater Reclamation Plant percolates into the Lompoc Plain Sub-Basin and is considered recharge, not consumption. [Source: Revised Water Balance for Providence Landing, prepared by Todd Engineers, January 24, 2003]

Retrofit Cost Per Residence

| Items (per residence)  | Quantity | Approx Cost | Total           |
|--|----------|-------------|-----------------|
| Toilet, high-efficiency, plus hardware   | 2        | \$100.00    | \$200.00        |
| Toilet installation  | 2        | \$60.00     | \$120.00        |
| Shower head, low-flow  | 2        | \$6.00      | \$12.00         |
| Faucet aerator   | 3        | \$1.50      | \$4.50          |
| Administration <i>Including staff time to communicate the program and for other water conservation efforts</i> | —        | \$93.50     | \$93.50         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |          |             | <b>\$430.00</b> |

In-lieu fee: (10 residences) X (\$430 per residence) = **\$4,300** per SFE

For new connections other than single family residences homes, the estimated water use for the proposed development (commercial, industrial, public, etc.) will be converted to SFEs and used to determine the developer's retrofit requirement.

Based on historical experience in Vandenberg Village, apartments and condominiums/townhouses use approximately one-third of the volume of water used by a single family residence. For purposes of estimating water consumption, three apartments or three condominiums/townhouses use one SFE of water.

Developer in-lieu fees will be collected in the District's water conservation account and expended only for water conservation purposes addressed in this program or as otherwise authorized by the Board of Directors.

## Program Features

**Toilets:** The District will provide rebates for customers who replace existing toilets with toilets that use less water, subject to the following requirements and limitations:

Only high-efficiency toilets (HET) with a single flush of 1.28 gallons per flush (gpf) or less, or a dual flush with a full flush no more than 1.6 gpf and a reduced flush no more than 1.1 gpf, that meet current plumbing and building codes will be eligible for rebates.

Replacement of a toilet that was manufactured and installed prior to 1994 with an HET: \$160.00 rebate

Replacement of a 1.6 gpf ultra low-flow toilet (ULFT) with an HET: \$40.00 rebate

To receive a toilet rebate, customer must furnish paid receipts for toilets and installation costs to the District office. Staff will verify the adequacy of the receipts. Upon verification that the program requirements have been met, the District will issue a rebate check to the applicant or credit the customer's account.

Rebates are limited to the number of toilets in the residence or building.

Only toilets purchased and installed after June 7, 1996, are eligible for rebates.

**Clothes Washers:** Only high-efficiency clothes washers that appear on the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) approved list at <http://www.cee1.org> are eligible for rebates. The customer must provide paid receipts for the clothes washer to the District office. Staff will verify the adequacy of the receipts. Upon verification that the program requirements have been met, the District will issue a rebate check to the applicant or credit the customer's account in the amount of \$150.00. Each customer is eligible for one rebate per ten years.

Only clothes washers purchased and installed after July 1, 2007, are eligible for rebates.

**Cash for Grass:** Customers may receive a rebate to replace their grass with low water usage plants, rocks, and/or synthetic turf. To receive a rebate, customers must provide paid receipts for low water use plants, rocks, or synthetic turf; a sketch or drawing showing the approximate dimensions of grass removed; and pictures before and after the grass is removed. Staff will verify the adequacy of the receipts. Upon verification that the program requirements have been met, the District will issue a rebate check to the applicant or credit the customer's account up to \$2.00 per square foot with a \$1,000.00 maximum per assessor's parcel number.

Only materials purchased and installed after July 1, 2007, are eligible for rebates.

**Irrigation Controllers:** Only WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers using local weather and landscape conditions to control water schedules are eligible for rebates. The District will pay 50 percent of the cost to purchase the irrigation controller up to \$50.00 maximum.

Only irrigation controllers purchased and installed after May 6, 2014, are eligible for rebates.

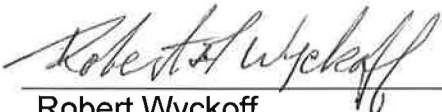
**Rain Barrels:** To be eligible for a rain barrel rebate, the rain barrel must be at least 50 gallons in size; connected to the downspout or installed under the roof drain; and must contain debris screen, spigot and hose, overflow tube, vector control, and lid. Unlined galvanized tanks are not eligible. Photographs after installation must be provided. Upon verification that the program requirements have been met, the District will issue a rebate check to the applicant or credit the customer's account up to \$50.00 per barrel.


Only rain barrels purchased and installed after May 6, 2014, are eligible for rebates.

**Shower Heads, Faucet Aerators, and Other Devices:** The District will stock shower heads, faucet aerators, and other water-saving devices and make them available for free distribution to Vandenberg Village residents.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Vandenberg Village Community Services District on May 6, 2014.

ATTEST:

  
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Robert Wyckoff  
President, Board of Directors

  
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Stephanie Vlahos  
Secretary to the Board of Directors