

**CITY OF BENICIA
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
2015 - 2016 GRANT APPLICATION**

4. The proposed Project/Program will serve FOCUS AREAS of the Benicia Climate Action Plan [CAP] to reduce Greenhouse gases [GHG] and thereby also support Community Sustainability. Please list specific STRATEGIES within the FOCUS AREAS below that will be addressed (fully or partially) by the proposed Project/Program. Include an explanation of the importance of each STRATEGY to the Project/Program's mission. [See CAP page 15 for Focus Areas.]

➤ **EDUCATION/PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Strategy EO-1.8. Informational Kiosks and Info displays at City Facilities

The Public Works Department (PWD) already created an information display at City Hall (outside the City Council Chamber) that educates the community about water conservation and available water rebates. The PWD also periodically has a display in the lobby area of the Benicia Public Library with flyers and giveaways.

➤ **ENERGY PRODUCTION**

➤ **TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE**

➤ **BUILDINGS**

➤ **INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL**

➤ **WATER & WASTEWATER**

Strategy WW-1.1. Cash for Grass Rebate Program

The PWD is proposing to continue its partnership with the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) and offer increased incentives for approximately 100,000 square feet of lawn at single-family homes in Benicia. This program will help property owners convert water-thirsty grass to water-efficient landscaping, which will help the City meet its water reduction goals.

In 2014 the PWD applied for the CSC Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for the enhanced turf replacement rebate program. The PWD ultimately was awarded a grant in the amount of \$100,000. The enhanced program has been very popular and successful (see Question 18 for more details.)

Strategy WW-1.5. Incentives for Residential Plumbing Fixture Upgrade

The PWD already contributes 25% of SCWA's cost to provide washer, smart irrigation controller, and turf replacement rebates. In 2013, the City contributed approximately \$20,000 towards the cost of all rebates and \$2,700 toward water-efficient landscaping rebates. The PWD/City of Benicia will continue to provide a 25% cost share for all plumbing fixture upgrades and lawn replacements, and if awarded funding, provide an additional \$100,000 to increase the per rebate amount for the water-efficient rebate program.

Objective WW-2. Reduce the Amount of Emissions Resulting from Pumps and Lift Stations

Reducing the amount of treated water delivered to single-family residences in Benicia will reduce the amount of energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that come from the City's pumps and lift stations as well as those that result from the water treatment process.

➤ **SOLID WASTE**

➤ **PARKS & OPEN SPACE**

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ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that all information contained in this application and any attachments is true and accurate.

NO CITY EMPLOYEE SHALL BE SIGNATORY ON BEHALF OF AN APPLICANT ORGANIZATION REQUESTING FUNDS FROM THE COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION. A CITY EMPLOYEE MAY BE SIGNATORY WHEN APPLYING FOR FUNDS FOR A PROJECT TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE CITY OF BENICIA.

	<u>Public Works Director</u>	<u>5/15/15</u>
Authorizing Signature	Title	Date

Graham Wadsworth
Typed Name

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PART B – BUDGET INFORMATION **

5. Please provide a budget for the proposed Project/Program. Expenses listed in this document should be consistent with the Project Description. This budget is only for the Project utilizing grant monies.

Do not leave any blank boxes. Use "N/A", if cost category is not applicable.

Note: Column "A" = Total cost of the proposed Project.

Column "B" = Amount requested in this grant application.

Column "C" = The difference between Column A and Column B, or the costs of the Project that are not included in this grant request, if any.

PROJECT DIRECT EXPENSES	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (A)	GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT (B)	APPLICANT'S OTHER COSTS (C)
Personnel (direct ¹)			
Personnel (direct ¹)			
Personnel (support ¹)			
Benefits (direct ¹)			
Contract Services			
Project Supplies			
Project Equipment			
Other Direct Costs	\$25,000 (The City's local 25% match to SCWA's existing \$1/sq. ft. rebate)	\$0	
Other Direct Costs	\$100,000	\$100,000	
SUBTOTAL	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$

¹: [Provide names, titles & total estimated annual salary or stipend. Attach additional sheets if needed and summarize total here.]

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PART B – BUDGET INFORMATION (continued)

INDIRECT EXPENSES				
Administrative - personnel				
Benefits				
Space/office rental				
Utilities				
Telephone				
Office Supplies				
Transportation (gas, rental)				
Other Indirect Costs				
SUBTOTAL		\$		\$
TOTAL COSTS		\$100,000		\$100,000

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PART B – BUDGET INFORMATION (continued)

6. APPLICANT’S FINANCIAL SOURCES: Please provide sources of other funds for the proposed Project/Program. Total amount should correspond with Total in Column C (from previous page). Do not include your entire budget here. (It should be attached).

Applicant’s Sources of Other Funding (be specific)	Amount or Value	Cash or In-kind (indicate)
City of Benicia Public Works Department (Water Division)	Est. \$25,000	Cash
Solano County Water Agency	\$300,000 (SCWA’s budget is \$300,000 county-wide. The City of Benicia pays 25 cents on the dollar for every rebate that goes to a Benicia resident.)	Cash
TOTAL	\$	\$

7. List any prior City of Benicia grants or loans awarded to your organization and the number of Benicians served with the funds. (If more space is needed to complete your answer, use the reverse side of this page).

Fiscal Year	Project/Program	Amount of City Grant or Loan	Benicians served
2014-15	Water-Efficient Landscaping Rebate Program	\$100,000	Benicia Residents
2012-13	Land purchase for solar panels at Pump Station #3.	\$556,909	Benicia Water Users
2011-12			
2010-11			
2009-10			
TOTALS		\$	

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PART C – PROJECT/PROGRAM ORGANIZATION DISCUSSION
(Please limit Part C to 5 pages)

8. **Brief Project/Program Summary** (Three to four sentences describing the grant proposal).

The PWD is applying for funds to enhance the existing SCWA Water-Efficient Landscaping Rebate Program (the "Project") by providing additional incentives to residents. If awarded the requested funding (\$100,000), the PWD will provide an additional \$1 per square foot of water thirsty lawn replaced with water-efficient landscaping for Benicia single-family home water customers (100,000 square feet). The total rebate offered for these residents will be \$2 per square foot up to \$2,000 on a first come first serve basis. When funds are expended, SCWA will continue to offer \$1/sq. ft. up to \$1,000.

9. **Describe the Project/Program's general purpose and activities:**

The Project's main purpose is to reduce water consumption in Benicia by encouraging owners/renters of single-family homes to replace water thirsty lawns with water-efficient landscaping. The following activities support that purpose:

1. Pre and post installation inspection at homes to ensure landscaping requirements have been met and water-efficient landscape management techniques are employed;
2. The PWD will continue outreach with SCWA (described in detail in the response to question 17.)

10. If sponsored by a non-profit or business, list all financial liabilities or pending legal action:

N/A

11. If applying for other grants for fiscal years 2015 - 2016, please list the project, funding source(s), proposed budgets and requested amount(s).

The Public Works Department will also apply for a \$69,889 CSC grant for WaterSmart.

12a. How much if any money will this project save the organization?

N/A (Zero)

12b. If costs savings are involved, when do you anticipate this project will pay for itself, if at all?

N/A

13. At what location(s) will the proposed Project/Program take place, and, if applicable, how long has the organization been at this location?

The Project will take place at single-family homes in Benicia (up to \$100,000 total square feet). The SCWA Water-Efficient Landscaping Rebate Program has existed since 2010. Participation in the program has greatly increased as shown in the table below.

Year	Number of Turf Replacement Rebates Issued
FY 10/11	2
FY 11/12	5
FY 12/13	4
FY 13/14	19
FY 14/15	107 (as of 5/6/15)

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PART C – PROJECT/PROGRAM ORGANIZATION DISCUSSION (continued)

- 14. What are your proposed hours of operations for this Project/Program? Please indicate hours that actual services will be provided, and how this may or may not differ from the hours project staff will be available to respond to inquiries by phone or email, answer general questions, etc.?**

SCWA will continue to oversee and administer the Project with assistance from the PWD. SCWA and the PWD operate Monday through Friday from approximately 8am-5pm. Both organizations are available to respond to inquiries during those hours. SCWA and the PWD have discussed expanding this program and SCWA can handle the additional demand (see attached letter of commitment from SCWA dated May 11, 2015.) Interested residents must do the following to participate.

1. Call SCWA to schedule a brief pre-inspection (707-455-1113 or email solanocash4grass@scwa2.com); await Notice to Proceed letter.
2. Remove lawn area and install project according to program landscaping requirements (available online).
3. Call SCWA to schedule a post-inspection visit; must take place within 3 months of Notice to Proceed.
4. Send in final rebate application along with list of plants and materials used in conversion.

- 15. Describe the Project/Program associated with this grant request. Include the goals to be achieved and the strategy that will be used to meet the goals. Be specific when discussing what will be achieved as a result of the proposed Project/Program, with respect to goals of the Benicia Climate Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions.**

Project: Enhance the existing SCWA Water-Efficient Landscaping Rebate Program

Goal 1: Reduce outdoor water consumption at single-family homes by replacing 100,000 square feet of water thirsty lawn.

Approximately 54% of the total treated water delivered in Benicia goes to single-family homes. On average, 50 percent of total residential use is outdoors, in some cases up to 80 percent (according to a May 5, 2015 Media Release from the State Water Resources Control Board).

The City could save up to 3,200,000 gallons (or 9.8 acre-feet) of water per year (100,000 square feet of lawn replaced multiplied by 32 gallons* = 3,200,000 gallons divided by 325,851 (conversion factor) = 9.8 acre-feet.)

*The Public Policy Institute of California reported in a study that turf conversion saves 32 gallons of water per year per square foot in the coastal zone and 39 gallons in the inner coastal zone. The Bay Area spans the two, with Benicia being on the fringes of the inner coastal zone. 32 gallons was used in the calculation to be conservative.

Strategy: The PWD will achieve this goal by providing additional incentives (\$1/sq.ft. of lawn replaced up to \$1,000) in addition to the existing rebate offered by the SCWA for a total of \$2/sq. ft. of lawn replaced for 100,000 square feet of lawn.

Achieving this goal implements CAP Strategy WW – 1.1 (further explained on page 3 of this application.)

Goal 2: Reduce Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions from City pumps and lift stations.

Reducing single-family home water consumption will reduce the amount of treated water the City needs to pump, treat, and deliver to customers.

The estimated GHG emissions reductions for replacing 100,000 square feet of lawn is **2.38 metric tons of carbon dioxide (MTCO₂)**. (Calculation: 3.2 million gallons saved x 3,982.61 kWh per million gallons* = 12,744.35 kWh x 0.412** = 5,251 lbs or 2.38 metric tons of carbon dioxide.)

*Benicia's embedded energy in water supply in a normal hydrologic year.

**PG&E emissions factor

Strategy: Encourage residents to reduce outdoor water consumption by providing incentives. Reduced water consumption leads to energy and emissions reductions.

Achieving this goal will also implement CAP Objective WW-2: Reduce the Amount of Emissions Resulting from Pumps and Lift Stations.

16. Please describe why the proposed Project/Program is necessary for citizens of Benicia and the community as a whole?

Lawn conversion can save Benicia citizens time and money while conserving water and benefiting the environment. Water conservation is always important as outlined in the City's Climate Action Plan and the Valero Good Neighbor Steering Committee Settlement Agreement; however, it is especially important now as California is in the fourth year of a drought. The City already offers a number of incentives to residents:

- No cost water and/or energy audits
- No cost water and energy upgrades
- Rebates (turf replacement, washer machines and smart irrigation controllers)

This Project would build on those incentives while increasing the knowledge of water conservation practices and technologies. The PWD will continue to empower residents to make smart decisions that ultimately reduce treated water consumption at single-family homes – the largest percentage of treated water deliveries in Benicia.

17. How will outreach be conducted so that services provided will have an educational “ripple effect” throughout the community?

The PWD may use any of the following outreach methods to promote the turf replacement rebates:

- Social Media outreach using the City’s water conservation branding (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)
- Direct mailer to Benicia residents (with other water conservation information)
- City Manager’s Report
- City Council monthly water update agenda item
- Benicia Utility Bill message
- Brochure featuring residential and commercial water conservation rebates and services (are available for the public at various City Departments including Public Works, Benicia Public Library, and Parks & Community Services/Community Center)
- Farmers’ Markets
- Informational display case at City Hall (near the Council Chamber)
- SCWA conducts county-wide outreach (may be through KUIC radio.) SCWA funds 75% and the City 25% of the costs to conduct this outreach.
- WattzOn could continue to inform participants of available rebates when they conduct free home water and energy audits through the Benicia Home Efficiency Program.
- The future water-wise demonstration garden at the Senior Center could provide customers with information on the rebate program

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PART C – PROJECT/PROGRAM ORGANIZATION DISCUSSION (continued)

17a. List the specific, quantifiable goals of the proposed Project/Program. (Please state the goals in numbers of individuals, families, households or groups projected to be served and then estimate the amount of energy or water savings that may be achieved for each, then total those figures in each category and estimate GHG reduced by the Project/Program over one year.)

ANNUAL GOALS	Numbers served, e.g. individuals, families, households and/or groups	Water & Energy Savings in 1 year	GHG reductions (estimate) in 1 year
<p>Replace 100,000 square feet of water thirsty lawns with water-efficient landscaping.</p>	<p>100 customers minimum up to 129 based on FY 14/15 average rebate amount</p> <p>(Calculations: \$100,000 divided by 1,000 square foot maximum/customer = 100 customers.) (Could be more than 100 customers if folks replace less than 1,000 square feet of lawn.)</p>	<p>3.2 million gallons</p> <p>(Calculation: 100,000 sq. ft. multiplied by 32 gallons/sq. ft. per year = 3,200,000 gallons)</p>	<p>2.38 MTCO2 or 5,251 lbs CO2.</p> <p>(Calculation: 3.2 million gallons saved x 3,982.61 kWh per million gallons* = 12,744.35 kWh x 0.412** = 5,251 lbs or 2.38 metric tons of carbon dioxide.) *Benicia's embedded energy in water supply in a normal hydrologic year. **PG&E emissions factor</p>

17b. Discuss how this data will be collected, organized and disseminated throughout the community.

SCWA administers the program and tracks the data and send it to the PWD. The PWD provides semi-annual grant reports to the Community Sustainability Commission (which are posted on the Internet.)

18. If the proposed Project/Program is an already existing activity, or part of an existing program of the applicant or his or her organization or business, please explain.

The Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) has administered a turf-replacement program since 2010 using state Proposition 84 grant funding that provides rebates to residents who replace their water thirsty lawn with drought-tolerant landscaping. SCWA funds 75% of the program costs, including rebates and outreach, and the City matches that with a 25% contribution.

In 2014 the PWD applied for the CSC Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for the enhanced turf replacement rebate program. The PWD ultimately was awarded a grant in the amount of \$100,000 for Benicia residents to receive an enhance rebate of \$2/sq. ft, up to \$2,000, until the grant funds are exhausted. The enhanced program has been very popular and successful. As of May 8, 2015, \$83,187 of the \$100,000 grant has been paid in rebates to 107 Benicia residents who have replaced 107,083 square feet of lawn. The balance remaining of \$16,813 will go to Benicia residents that are already in the queue, on a first come first serve basis. There are 51 residents in the queue. New participants in the program will receive \$1/square foot rebate. If the CSC awards another \$100,000 grant, then the rebate will resume to \$2/sq. ft., up to \$2,000.

19. Identify similar projects or programs in the community and how the proposed Project/Program differs from them.

This is the only program that offers lawn replacement incentives to Benicia residents.

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PART C – PROJECT/PROGRAM ORGANIZATION DISCUSSION (continued)

20. **REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:** Please verify and check off confirmation indicating that the following required items are attached to the original application.

Do not leave any blank – if an item is not applicable, indicate by “N/A”

Item #	Description	Submitted (verification by City staff)
1	IRS Letter of Tax Exempt Status	N/A
2	Organization's total budget for the current year	N/A
3	Copy of most recent audit or financial statement	N/A
4	Names and addresses of Board of Directors	Attached
5	List of paid principal staff and positions	Attached
6	Job descriptions for principal staff and personnel <i>to be paid partially or in full with grant funding.</i>	N/A
7	Copy of resolution or board meeting minutes indicating organization's support of the project application.	N/A
8	If a partnership, or involving any collaboration with other group or entity, letters of commitment from each organization indicating degree of participation and a budget showing each organization's financial responsibility to the proposed Project/Program.	Attached

THANK YOU!

Attachment 1 (Question 20, Item #4)

Names and Address of Board of Directors

City of Benicia
City Council Members
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor
Tom Campbell, Vice Mayor
Alan Schwartzman, Councilmember
Mark Hughes, Councilmember
Christina Strawbridge, Councilmember

Attachment 2 (Question 20, Item #5)

List of paid principal staff and positions

**City of Benicia
Public Works Department Staff**

Graham Wadsworth, P.E., Public Works Director
Dan Jackson, Water Quality Supervisor
Carrie Wenslawski, Management Analyst
Dave Wenslawski, Water Quality Technician
Lisa Kemmer, Administrative Secretary

Attachment 3 (Question 20, Item #8)

**Letter of Commitment from
Solano County Water Agency
Dated May 11, 2015**

SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY



May 11, 2015

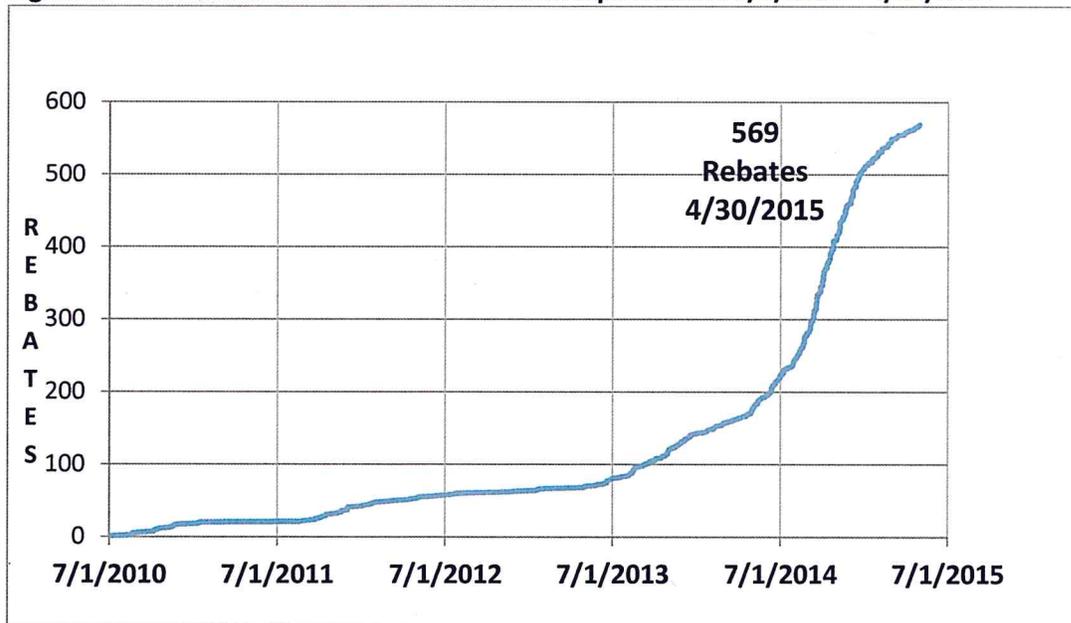
Re: 2015-16 Community Sustainability Commission Grant

Dear Benicia Community Sustainability Commission,

I am writing this letter in support of the City of Benicia's current program to offer an additional \$1/sq. ft. to their residents who remove turf and replace with Bay Friendly landscaping. The Solano County Water Agency has worked with the City since 2007 to encourage Solano County and Benicia residents to conserve water. Sharing in the cost of toilet, clothes washer, smart irrigation controller, and turf replacement rebates, hundreds of people have participated in the joint program. We are pleased to continue our oversight and administrative support of the program and help increase the number of participants in Benicia.

For Fiscal Year 15-16, the Water Agency has requested a budget of approximately \$300,000 for water efficient landscaping across Solano County. As can be seen in the graph below, participation in this program has increased by orders of magnitude.

Figure 1. Total Amount of Water Efficient Landscape Rebates 7/1/2010 – 4/30/2015



In the period July 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015, 105 Benicia residents received combined rebates from the water agency and the city for removal of turf and replacement with Bay Friendly water efficient landscaping (Figure 2). We will continue to offer a \$1/sq. foot up to \$1,000 to residents who replace their lawns. We are pleased to learn that if awarded funding, the City will offer an additional \$1/sq. foot for a total rebate of up to \$2,000.

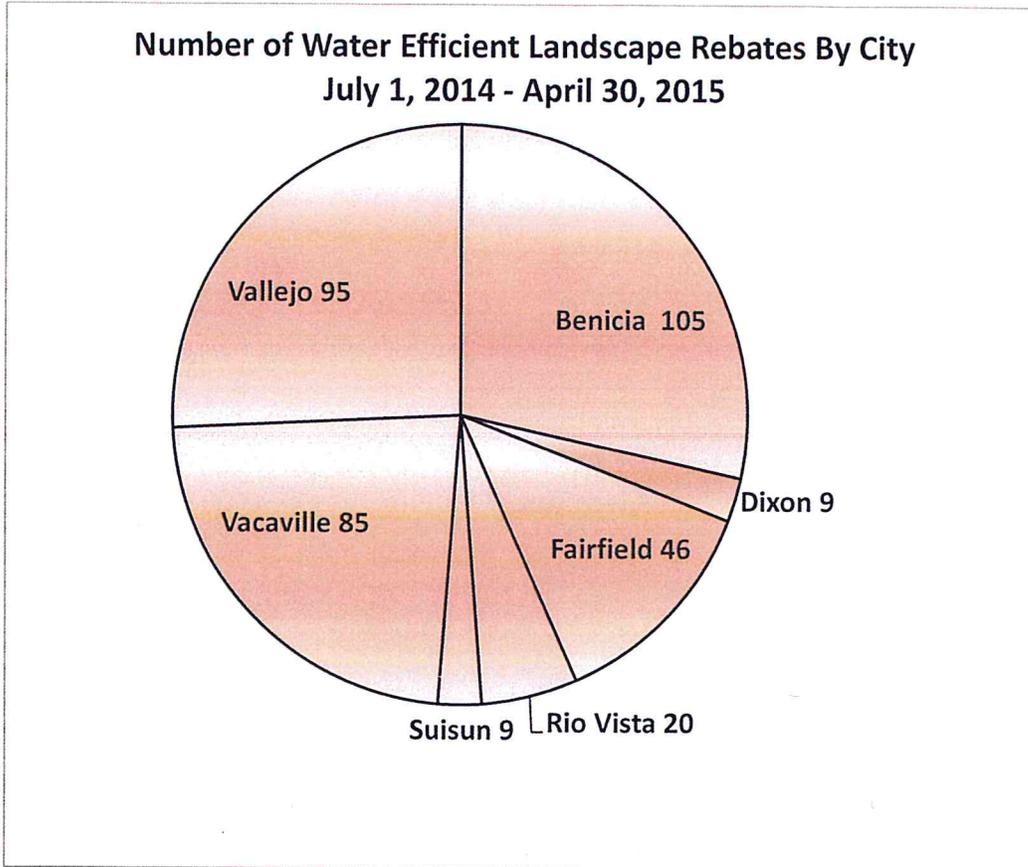
810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203
Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 451-6090, FAX (707) 451-6099
www.solanosaveswater.org



SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY



Figure 2. Number of Water Efficient Landscape Rebates By City



We hope that this increased incentive will continue to generate interest in the Water Efficient Landscape rebate program and encourage many more residents to participate and conserve water during our severe drought.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to our continued work with the City and the Sustainability Commission.

Sincerely,

Andrew Florendo
Water Conservation Coordinator
Solano County Water Agency

810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203
Vacaville, CA 95688
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www.solanosaveswater.org

