



One Water and Adaptation Committee

Report on Conservation Program

Item 9-1

January 12, 2026

Presented by: James A. Morgutia

Item 9-1
Report on
Conservation
Program

Subject

Report on Conservation Program

Purpose

To provide updates on conservation expenditures and activity, as well as additional items as needed. This oral presentation will provide an update on the availability of grant funding and the status of the Landscape Survey Program.

Current Conservation Program Expenditures

FYs 2024/25 &
2025/26⁽¹⁾

	Paid ⁽²⁾	Committed ⁽³⁾
Regional Devices	\$1.8 M	\$0.9 M
Member Agency Administered	\$6.7 M	\$6.6 M
Turf Replacement	\$17.0 M	\$36.1 M
Advertising	\$1.6 M	\$0.9 M
Other	\$3.0 M	\$1.6 M
TOTAL	\$30.1 M	\$46.1 M

(1) The Conservation Program biennial expenditure authorization is \$98.2M.

(2) Paid as of 7/1/2024 - 11/30/2025. Financial reporting on cash basis.

(3) Committed dollars as of December 10, 2025.

Current
Conservation
Program
Activity
FYs 2024/25 &
2025/26



Turf Replacement Rebates:

November: 270,366 ft² replaced

FY2024/25-FY2025/26: 7,904,208 ft² replaced



Trees (part of Turf Replacement Program):

November: 124 trees rebated

FY2024/25-FY2025/26: 2,833 units rebated



Smart Controllers:

November: 403 units rebated

FY2024/25-FY2025/26: 8,055 units rebated

Lifetime Water Savings to be achieved by all rebates in November 2025: 2,819 AF

FY2024/25-FY2025/26: 63,001 AF lifetime water savings



Update on Department of Water Resources Grant Funding for Commercial & Public Agency Turf Replacement

Commercial & Public Agency Turf Replacement Grant Funding

July 2024 Implementation of \$30M DWR grant awarded to provide additional \$1 per square foot (sf) for CII and Public Agency turf replacement incentives



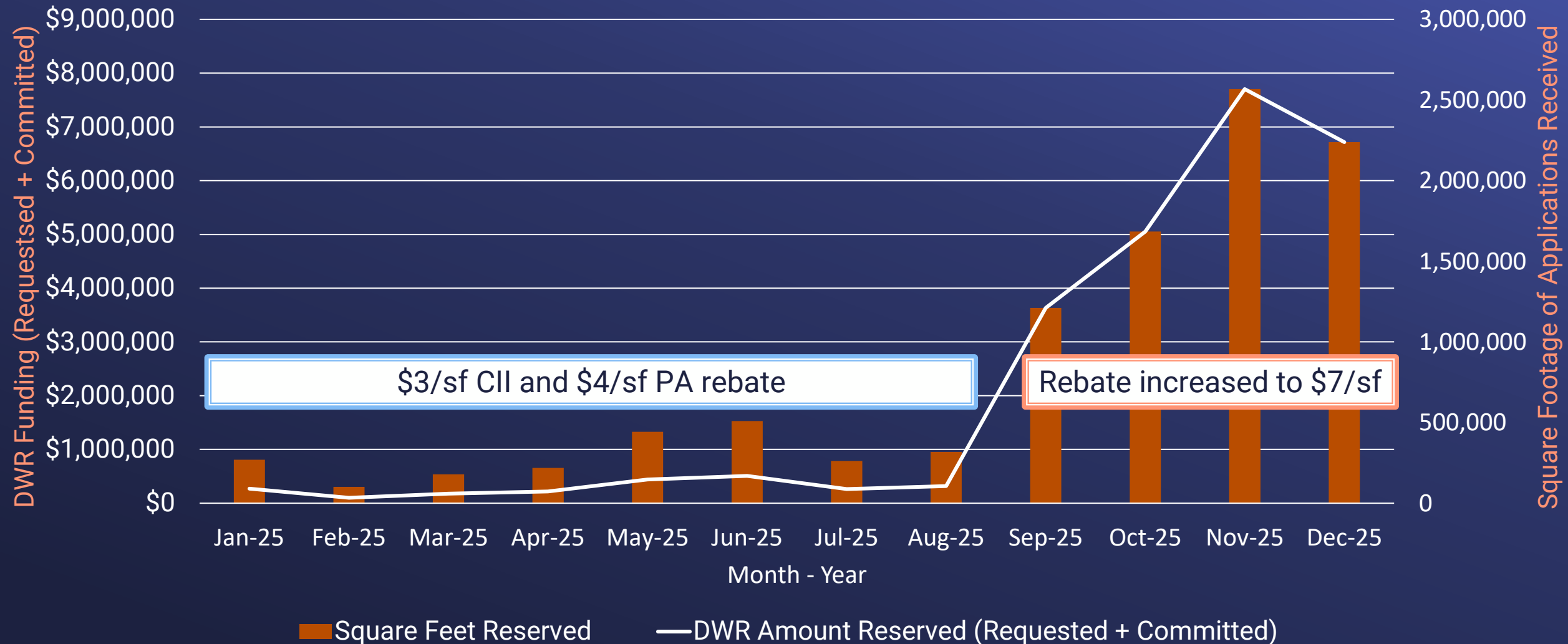
Customer Type	Metropolitan Incentive	DWR Incentive	USBR Bucket 2 Incentive	Total Incentive
CII & Public Agency	\$1/sf	\$3/sf	\$3/sf	\$7/sf

As of September 1, 2025

DWR Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Activity

Requested + Committed Funding

Applications Received CY2025



Update on DWR Turf Replacement Grant Funding

\$30M DWR UCDR Grant for CII and Public Agency Turf Replacement *Totals as of January 5th, 2026*

Funding Spent (Projects Completed)	Funding Committed* (pre-approved projects)	Funding Requested** (new applications not yet pre-approved)	Total
\$3M	\$7.6M	\$24.3M	~\$35M

* Some committed funding may be released back into the program if:

- A pre-approved application is cancelled
- The customer does not complete their project in time
- The customer fails to complete their project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the program

** Not all applications requesting DWR funding will be committed:

- Non-qualifying sites
- Non-responsive customers to application issues,
- The program reaches its committed grant funding threshold (\$30M)

Update on DWR Turf Replacement Grant Funding (continued)

- Staff anticipates the program will reach committed dollar threshold within weeks
 - Messaging scaled back to refrain from advertising the \$7/sf rebate
- CII and Public Agency Turf Replacement incentive for will revert to \$4/sf once all DWR funding has been committed or March 1, 2026 (whichever is sooner)
- Additional language added to SoCalWaterSmart website to clarify funding not guaranteed until a formal pre-approval has been issued
- Member and Retail Agency staff notified of increased grant activity and Metropolitan's outreach strategy

Update on Residential & Large Landscape Survey Program

Update on Residential and Large Landscape Survey Program

- Current three-year agreement with WaterWise Consulting for large landscape and residential surveys through 2028
 - Total not-to-exceed \$600,000
- Increase in residential survey activity
 - Member and retail agencies use program as a qualifier for low-income leak repair programs
- Large landscape survey activity increases
 - AB 1572 (2023) outreach & increased TRP rebate
 - Participants use survey as first step to determine non-functional turf areas and ROI for turf replacement
- Staff to request Board action in Spring
 - Additional funding to prevent lapse in program services
 - Addition of CII indoor survey, to include LA28 venues

Residential & Large Landscape Survey Program Activity

(Current 3-Yr Agreement)

