



- **Board of Directors**  
***One Water and Stewardship Committee***

2/11/2025 Board Meeting

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7-5

## Subject

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Authorize the General Manager to approve a new three-year agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc. for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program, for a total agreement not to exceed \$200,000/year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

## Executive Summary

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The large-landscape survey program has provided in-person outdoor efficiency audits to commercial and residential landscapes over one acre since 2013. In 2022, Metropolitan added an indoor/outdoor residential survey option, providing leak detection and efficiency recommendations to all residents throughout the service area. Since adding the residential surveys, program activity has increased. The current agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc. expires on February 28, 2025. This agreement will extend the program for three years with no change to the current program budget.

## Proposed Action(s)/Recommendation(s) and Options

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### Staff Recommendation: Option #1

#### Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to approve a new three-year agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc. for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program, for a total agreement not to exceed \$200,000/year.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$600,000 over three years funded from the current Conservation Program budget. This request will not increase the Conservation Program budget.

**Business Analysis:** The proposed agreement will allow the program to continue uninterrupted through 2028.

#### Option #2

Do not authorize a new agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc. If not authorized, the program will end.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Business Analysis:** The Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program will end. Member and retail water agencies would not be able to list the survey program as a best management practice for the Conservation as a California Way of Life regulation reporting.

## Alternatives Considered

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Not applicable

## Applicable Policy

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Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minute Item 48772, dated August 16, 2011, the Board adopted the Long-Term Conservation Plan and revisions to the water conservation policy principles.

## Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

Not applicable

## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

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### CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4)).

### CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

## Details and Background

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### Background

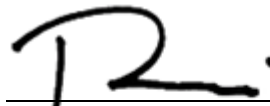
In 2013, Metropolitan launched a large-landscape survey program for commercial and residential properties with over an acre of irrigated landscape. These in-person surveys include an irrigation audit and recommendations for water use efficiency improvements. Metropolitan provides these surveys free of charge to property owners to improve irrigation efficiency on large landscapes with high water usage. The report provided to the customer includes an overview of any leaks or needed repairs of the irrigation system as well as recommendations for changes to improve efficiency. These recommendations include turf replacement, irrigation changes, controller upgrades, and landscaping best management practices. The report also includes a cost-benefit analysis, rebate availability, and a payback timeline for the recommendations.

In 2021, WaterWise Consulting Inc. was competitively selected as the survey program contractor through a Request for Proposal process. In 2022, Metropolitan added a residential survey option to the program, which can be performed virtually or in person. The residential survey does not have a minimum size and includes indoor and outdoor home audits. Survey consultants provide a leak detection review inside and outside the home and prepare a report of recommendations to improve water use efficiency. These recommendations include turf replacement, irrigation repair and upgrades, appliance upgrades, and conservation tips for indoor water use. The report also provides rebate and other program information available to the customer.

A Request for Proposal was issued in December 2024, and WaterWise Consulting Inc. was the only respondent. Therefore, they have been selected to continue as the survey program contractor.

### Proposed Action

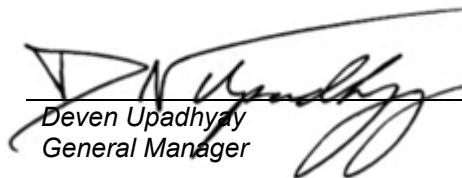
Previous agreements were issued as one-year agreements with two one-year rollover options with a budget of \$200,000 per year. Staff is requesting to change the approach to establishing the agreement so that a three-year agreement for a not-to-exceed total of \$600,000 will be authorized by the Board. This revised approach will increase the efficiency of administering the agreement.



Brandon J. Goshi  
Interim Manager,  
Water Resource Management

2/6/2025

Date



Deven Upadhyay  
General Manager

2/6/2025

Date