



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

11/18/2025 Board Meeting

9-3

Subject

Information on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Potential Stormwater Pilot Program

Executive Summary

This letter provides information on a proposed stormwater pilot program with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact estimated at this time. If approved, expenditures will remain within the Board-authorized budget.

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8121: General Authority of the General Manager to Enter Contracts

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

Staff plans to request board authorization for a stormwater pilot program in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and a multi-year sole-source agreement with Rainplan, LLC.

Details and Background

Background

Los Angeles County Public Works (PW) is interested in partnering with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) to develop a pilot program that allows PW to evaluate landscape transformation with prescriptive stormwater capture to advance the Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP). Metropolitan currently supports two co-benefit programs through the Turf Replacement Program—one with the County of San Diego and one with Orange County Public Works—and is interested in exploring the expansion of these types of partnerships throughout the service area. The intention of this pilot program will also be to collect additional data on the type, quantity, and value of potential co-benefits as part of a cost-benefit analysis.

The proposed pilot program will include the following elements:

- Landscape Design
 - Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP)/Low Impact Development (LID) strategies designed to capture the 85th-percentile storm event [achieves improved stormwater quality, increased groundwater recharge (aquifer dependent), and offsets outdoor potable use].
 - BMP/LIDs may include on-site detention, retention basins, cisterns, rain gardens, and bioretention areas.

- Reduce and minimize dry weather runoff (achieves improved water quality).
- Introduce native plants to increase local biodiversity and reduce wildfire risk (potentially achieves increased stormwater capture and offsets/reduces outdoor potable use).
- Community
 - Explore new options to reduce barriers of participation for low-income and underserved customers.
- Engagement
 - Leverage local community-based organizations (CBOs) within the pilot area to engage their local community and educate them about Metropolitan, PW, SCWP, and the benefits of the pilot projects, to the extent possible.
- Co-Funding
 - Pilot an enhanced rebate program that reflects the expected stormwater benefits for PW while offsetting the cost of more prescriptive requirements in the pilot program for participants.
- Data Analysis
 - Measure, monitor, and/or quantify/monetize project benefits.

Program Proposal

Staff proposes an enhanced rebate for a pilot area selected by PW to be administered through the existing SoCal WaterSmart regional turf replacement rebate program. Pilot program participants will follow the same administrative review and inspection process and will be required to meet all project requirements and terms and conditions for the Turf Replacement Program. The final pilot area selection will be made by PW.

In addition, participants must install a stormwater capture feature designed to capture the 85th percentile storm event. The use of native plants, mulch, and soil amendments will also be required or encouraged. Education and community-based outreach will be coordinated by Metropolitan's External Affairs staff in cooperation with local water agencies and CBO partnerships.

Metropolitan and PW staff also propose to pilot a project facilitation service through a third-party vendor, to improve access to the rebate program for low-income and underserved property owners and to evaluate the effectiveness of this type of service. Under the proposed program, Rainplan LLC would provide pre-application virtual site visits with prospective participants to ensure eligibility and understanding of the program requirements. After the initial consultation, participants may choose to further utilize Rainplan's services to complete the project or choose to complete the project on their own.

Rainplan's services include: (1) up-front funding of the project costs, (2) contractor bid solicitation and selection, (3) application assistance, and (4) review of the final project to ensure it meets all program requirements. Metropolitan would contract with Rainplan to cover the associated service fees for all participants who choose to use this option. The up-front funding would be reimbursed by the program participant after receipt of the rebate payment.

The goal of the pilot program will be to determine the costs and benefits of a stacked incentive program. Data collection and analysis will include water savings, dry and wet weather flow reductions, participant demographics, other identified co-benefits, and the associated cost per acre-foot. Staff also seeks to determine if additional water savings are achieved with the installation of prescriptive stormwater features.

Rainplan would also collect data for all projects completed through their project facilitation service. Staff will issue a Request for Proposal to hire an independent third-party consultant to collect data for all other projects and to do the final program analysis.

Cost Share

PW funding will be used to provide co-funding for the enhanced Turf Replacement Program rebate. Metropolitan staff will oversee pilot program administration, provide the base rebate to program participants, and fund all other costs associated with the pilot program. These costs include, but are not limited to:

- Additional website programming required for enhanced rebate.
- Program administration and associated inspections.
- Rainplan project facilitation costs.
- Consultant costs for final pilot analysis.

Metropolitan’s base rebate, which will include U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Bucket 2 funding, for Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) projects, is based on a cost per acre-foot of \$990 for CII projects and a cost of \$940 per acre foot for Residential projects. The final rebate breakdown and total rebate amount are not finalized. For discussion purposes, a sample breakdown is below.

Category	Metropolitan Base Rebate	PW Rebate	Member Agency Rebate	Total
Residential	\$3	\$5	\$2	\$10
CII	\$4	\$4	\$2	\$10

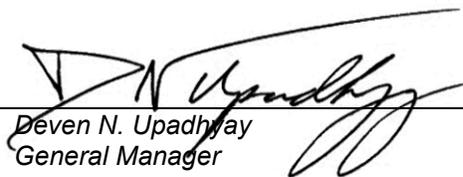
Once the final pilot area selection is made by PW, Metropolitan and PW staff will work with the appropriate member agency to develop a partnership agreement and incorporate any applicable potential co-funding.

Timeline

Early spring 2026: Board approval of Rainplan agreement and pilot program

Fall 2026: Pilot program initiation


 _____ 11/6/2025
Brandon J. Goshi Date
 Manager, Water Resource Management


 _____ 11/6/2025
Deven N. Upadhyay Date
 General Manager