A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L

AGENDA



Thursday, November 5, 2009

Austin Water Utility **Item No. 10**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Approve ratification of a rebate to FREE TOILET REPLACEMENTS, INC. for the installation of 620 water efficient toilets at the Westdale Parke Apartments, in an amount not to exceed $124,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Austin Water Utility.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required

For More Information: Drema Gross, 974-2787; Denise Avery, 972-0104

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission, the Resource Management Commission, and the Citizens Water Conservation Implementation Task Force.

Austin Water Utility requests ratification of a rebate in an amount not to exceed $124,000 to Free Toilet Replacements, Inc for the purchase and installation of 620 1.28 gallon, high efficiency tank-type toilets at the Westdale Parke Apartments located at 3543 Greystone Dr. Austin, TX 78731 in accordance with the City of Austin's Toilet Rebate Program guidelines. The rebate is for the cost of toilets and installation by a Texas licensed plumber up to a maximum of $200 per toilet.

This program is designed to replace old large-capacity toilets with water efficient models. The replacement of these toilets is expected to save 10,602 gallons per day, reducing demands on the Utility's treatment capacity and decreasing greenhouse gas equivalents by an estimated 9.56 metric tons per year.

For most of the program's history, the total dollar amount of these rebates has been within the City Manager's spending authority. The approval process followed all purchasing rules and procedures. The Toilet Rebate Program has recently started to receive applications for larger-scale projects where the total dollar amount of the rebate exceeds the City Manager's spending authority. A procedure had not been established for obtaining Council approval prior to granting an applicant permission to proceed with a large toilet replacement project. Program procedures have been updated to obtain Council's approval for all rebates over the administrative authority prior to giving applicants the authorization to begin installing.