



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor and City Council Members

**From:** Greg Meszaros, Director, Austin Water Utility

**Date:** October 30, 2009

**Subject:** Ratification of Free Toilet Replacement Rebates

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On the November 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting agenda, there are 9 items to approve ratifications of rebates for various commercial and multi-family customers' participation in the Austin Water Utility Toilet Rebate Program for the total amount of \$792,800. These rebates were to install water efficient toilets in multi-family residences; below is a breakdown of the requested rebate ratifications:

- \$55,200 – for the installation of 276 water efficient toilets at the Westdale Creek Apartments
- \$59,800 – for installation of 299 water efficient toilets at Lexington Hills Apartments
- \$74,200 – for the installation of 371 water efficient toilets at Museo Apartments
- \$74,800 – for the installation of 374 water efficient toilets at Estates at Quarry Lake Apartments
- \$76,400 – for the installation of 382 water efficient toilets at the Westdale Pointe Apartments
- \$91,000 – for the installation of 455 water efficient toilets at Stassney Woods Apartments
- \$93,800 – for the installation of 469 water efficient toilets at Falls on Bull Creek Apartments
- \$124,000 – for the installation of 620 water efficient toilets at the Westdale Parke Apartments
- \$143,600 – for the installation of 718 water efficient toilets at Barrington Park Place Apartments

The Toilet Rebate Program is designed to replace older high-volume toilets with new water efficient models. Replacing these toilets is expected to save tens of thousands of gallons of water per day, reducing demand on the Utility's treatment capacity and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. The rebate includes the cost of the toilets and installation up to a specified maximum of \$200 per toilet.

To participate, commercial and multi-family applicants must obtain pre-approval. Water conservation staff verifies that the applications meet program specifications before granting approval to proceed with installation. To receive the rebate, applicants submit receipts and a statement of installation when the approved work is complete.

For most of the program's history, the total dollar amount of these rebates has been within the City Manager's spending authority, so 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 toilets.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Meszaros', is positioned above the printed name.

Greg Meszaros, Director  
Austin Water Utility

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Rudy Garza, Assistant City Manager  
Daryl Slusher, Assistant Director, Austin Water Utility