

13-1603

Related CF: 09-2143

ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH, AGING & RIVER

MOTION

On June 20, 2007, the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Board of Commissioners adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Water and Power to develop and promote water conservation by maximizing landscape water efficiency. RAP operates more than 415 park facilities on more than 15,700 acres and water use has decreased by approximately 1.5 billion gallons per year since the baseline year of Fiscal Year 2006-2007. RAP has also developed a Strategic Water Conservation Plan which includes guidelines and methodology relative to the inclusion of drought resistant plants and low-maintenance alternatives in City landscaping projects.

The Department of General Services (GSD) mostly utilizes design plans prepared by RAP or the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to install landscaping which is maintained by RAP. Such design plans include the installation of drought resistant plants and/or low maintenance alternatives.

While the City has made great strides in utilizing drought-resistant plants and low-maintenance alternatives which has led to decreases in water usage and maintenance costs, the City must continue to prioritize water conservation. City facilities offer great opportunities to reduce water use and demonstrate alternatives to turf; the landscaping of City Hall after Occupy LA provides an example of water conservation strategies that could be emulated at all City facilities. To the extent possible, City departments should continue and expand efforts to incorporate water conservation strategies into City landscaping projects.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of General Services, and the Bureau of Engineering to: (1) evaluate the cost effectiveness and feasibility of using drought-tolerant landscaping and low maintenance alternatives whenever the City acquires, renovates, or re-landscapes City property and, (2) include drought-tolerant landscaping and low maintenance alternatives in City landscaping projects whenever cost-effective.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks to update its Strategic Water Conservation Plan and include the latest methods and strategies in water conservation such as the use of drought-resistant plants and low-maintenance alternatives.

PRESENTED BY: Bob Blumenfeld
BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

[Signature]
NOV 27 2013

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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