Turf Replacement Program for Public Agencies_

Lead With Your Landscape

About the Program

Metropolitan's Turf Replacement Program helps public agencies transform grass into beautiful, water-saving California Friendly® landscapes. Starting January 2027, a **statewide ban will prohibit watering nonfunctional turf** on public properties, such as schools, street medians and government buildings. Eligible agencies can receive a rebate **starting at $4 per square foot** of grass replaced with sustainable landscaping, plus **FREE project assistance**. This incentive is supported by federal funding and is subject to change. **Reserve your rebate today to stay ahead of future watering requirements.**

What is Nonfunctional Turf?

Nonfunctional turf is grass that is purely decorative and not used for recreation or other community purposes. Visit **bewaterwise.com/nonfunctionalturf** to learn more about the new law and its timeline.

Application Process

STEP 1: RESERVE YOUR REBATE

The first step is to reserve your rebate **BEFORE** starting your project or removing any grass. Use the Estimate Your Rebate tool available on SoCalWaterSmart.com. Your local water agency may offer additional incentives.

STEP 2: START YOUR PROJECT

Once the reservation is approved, you have 180 days to complete your public property's landscape project. To receive your reserved rebate, you must meet all project requirements.

STEP 3: CLAIM YOUR REBATE

After completing your project, return to your application to submit a request for your rebate.

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SoCal Water$mart

About Metropolitan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative of 26 member agencies –cities and public water agencies – that serve nearly 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and helps its members develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource management programs.

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Rebate Eligibility

- A public agency is any federal, state, regional or local government entity, agency or department, including any special district, joint powers authority, city, county or other political subdivision of the State of California within Metropolitan's service area.
- Minimum of 250 square feet of turf removed.
- A maximum of 200,000 square feet of turf per application is eligible for funding each fiscal year.
- There is a limit of one application per water meter per year.
- Proposed projects irrigated with recycled water are eligible unless exempted by the Metropolitan member agency.
- Artificial or synthetic turf is not allowed.

Project Requirements

- ☑ Three California Friendly® plants per 100 square feet of grass transformed.
- ☑ A stormwater retention feature to help keep water in your landscape when it rains. Rain or rock gardens, swales and rain barrels/cisterns are examples.
- ☑ Only permeable hardscapes such as mulch and decomposed granite are permitted. This allows water to flow through the surface and slowly filter into the ground.
- ☑ A replacement or modification of overhead spray sprinklers to a more water-efficient irrigation system is required for all projects.

Add Trees to Your Landscape

The Turf Replacement Program includes an extra $100 rebate for each approved tree added to your project design, with a cap of five trees. For recommended trees and other resources, visit **bewaterwise.com/trees**.

- Trees must be planted within the turf replacement project area.
- The minimum size for each tree is 15 gallons.
- Edible fruit trees are **not eligible for a rebate** on public properties.

We're Here to Help

FREE Project Assistance: Metropolitan helps public agencies with their turf replacement projects, including:

- Requests for proposals
- Scope of work and budgeting
- Contractor outreach and grant funding requests

Interested agencies can submit a project assistance request at **SoCalWaterSmart.com.**

Design Guidance: Chino Basin Water Conservation District's guide helps commercial, institutional and municipal sites plant and maintain California Friendly® landscapes. Visit **CBWCD.org/commercialnative.**

Learn More

To apply for the rebate, visit **SoCalWaterSmart.com**. Operators are available to answer questions in several languages at (888) 376-3314.

SoCal Water$mart

SoCal Water$mart is a region-wide program brought to you by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Local water agencies may offer other incentive program opportunities. Rebates will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted.