



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Water Use Efficiency Program Project



Claudia Bolanos
2029 East Avenue Q
Palmdale, CA 93550
cbolanos@palmdalewater.org
661-456-1092

Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00195
WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date: April 27, 2022

Applicant: Palmdale Water District

Location: Palmdale, Los Angeles County, California

Category: A

The Palmdale Water District (PWD), located in Southern California, will be offering incentives to its customers if they purchase and install water saving devices or remove turf and install water smart gardens. This will be a part of PWD's Water Use Efficiency Program. The expected benefit of this program is to reduce indoor and outdoor water use by offering a suite of incentives. Conservation is big for PWD and being able to offer a full water saving program will be very beneficial for our water resource plan.

We will start with the program as soon as funds are available hopefully on or around July 1, 2022, and we hope to continue it through December 31, 2023.

There is no federal facility within PWD Boundaries.

Background information:

California has experienced another drought cycle over the last three years. In June 2021 Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-10-21 recognizing the continued state of drought in California and called on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15%, and on October 2021 a proclamation of State of Emergency called for the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt an emergency regulation that would require all urban water suppliers who have submitted a Water Shortage Contingency Plan to, at a minimum, adopt level 2 of their Plan.

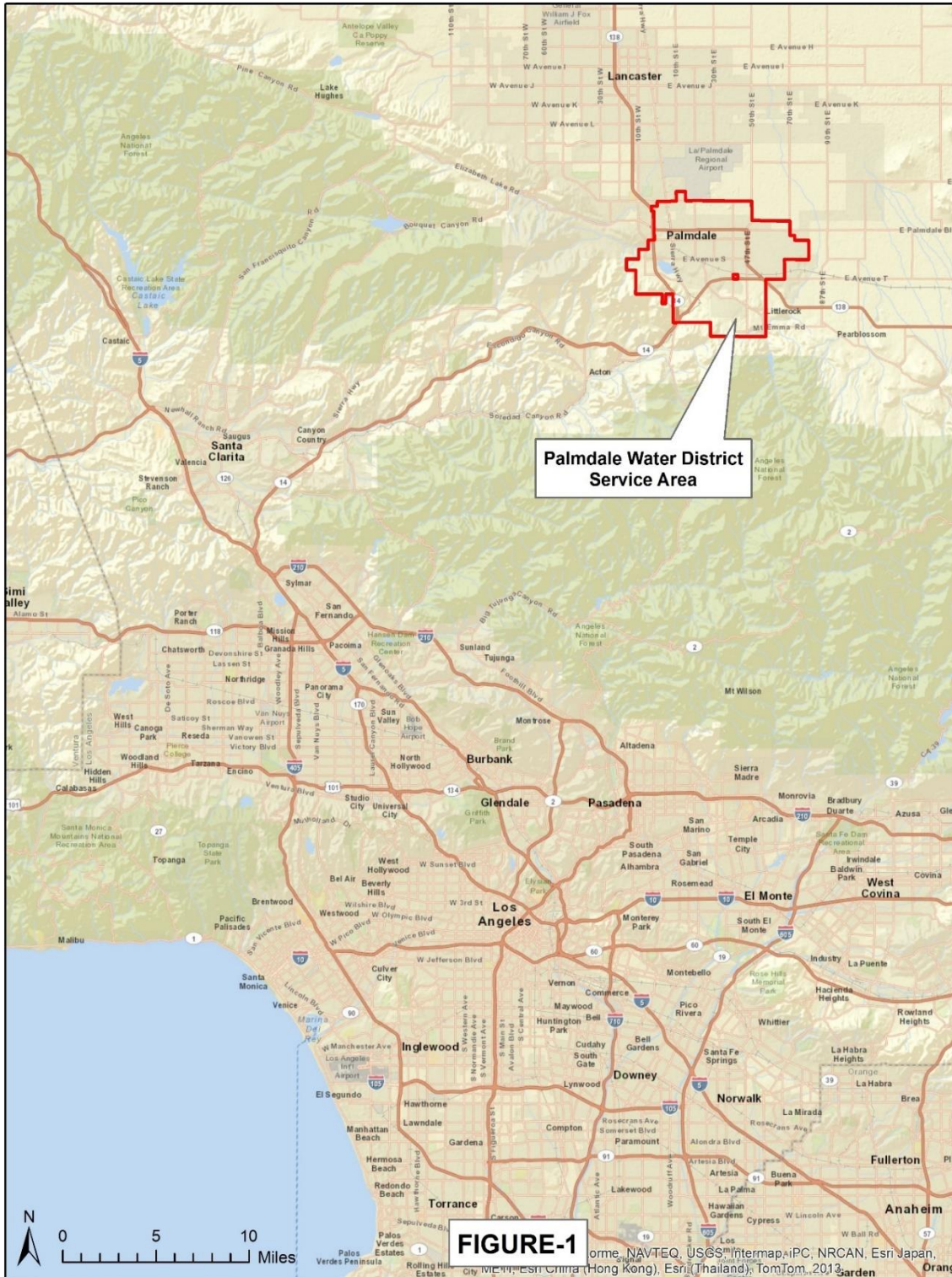
The District's existing water supply is acquired from a State Water Project allocation via the California Aqueduct, local surface water from Littlerock Reservoir, and groundwater. In 2020 the State Water Project allocation was 20%, in 2021 the allocation was 5%, and again in 2022 the allocation is 5%. Two consecutive years of a 5% allocation has not been seen in the history of the State Water Project.

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION

PWD provides water services to the City of Palmdale and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. The Water Use Efficiency Program incentives will be open and available for all PWD customers; therefore, they must fall within the PWD boundaries. A map of PWD boundaries is shown in Figure-1.

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2.1- Figure 1 – General Location of the Palmdale Water District in Los Angeles County.



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3.0 TECHNICAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Under funding opportunity No. R22AS00195, the Palmdale Water District will offer its existing Water-Wise Landscape Conversion Program and include incentives for installing high-efficiency toilets, high efficiency clothes washers, and weather-based irrigation controllers. From July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023 the Water Use Efficiency Program will provide incentives to replace approximately 80,000 square feet of turf with water-efficient landscaping, to replace 200 toilets to be high-efficiency toilets, to replace 100 washers to be high-efficiency clothes washers, and to install 200 weather-based irrigation controllers.

Water Wise Landscape Conversion Program

When it comes to water use, outdoor watering is the biggest culprit, and turf is the most water-intensive plant in gardens. The water-wise landscape conversion program offers customers an incentive to remove their turf and replace it with water-wise plants and garden décor.

Our water-wise landscape program is as follows:

PROGRAM TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applicants receiving funding through the Water-wise Landscape Conversion Program must abide by the following guidelines as a condition for receiving a rebate.

Program Terms

- Applicant must have a PWD water service account.
- Applicant must sign that they have read, understand, and agree to the program terms.
- Applicant must keep and maintain water-wise landscape in place for five (5) years.
- Rebate checks will be issued to the applicant after meeting project guidelines and passing the final inspection.
 - Applicant shall permit PWD access to the project site to complete pre-conversion and post-conversion inspections; measure square footage of conversion area; test irrigation efficiency; and obtain before and after photos.
- No retroactive or increased rebate amounts will be provided.

REBATE AMOUNTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$1.50 per square foot standard rebate with a maximum award of \$2,550 for residential or multi-family customers with a possibility of an additional \$0.50 incentive per square foot for quick completion with a maximum of \$750.00.

\$2.00 per square foot rebate for commercial/industrial customers that will be reviewed and approved at first come first serve basis based on fund availability.

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(To qualify for the quick completion incentive, the conversion project must be completed and ready for inspection within forty-five (45) days from the date on the "Notice to Proceed" letter.)

Project Requirements

- A minimum of four hundred (400) square feet of grass or non-drought tolerant landscape must be removed.
- Applicant is solely responsible for performing or contracting out the conversion work.
- Replacement surfaces must be permeable to water and air. The converted landscape must be installed so that one hundred (100) percent of the area will be covered with materials such as plants, mulch, or permeable hardscape. Examples of permeable hardscape include decomposed granite, pavers, brick, or rock where no mortar or grout has been used. There can be no bare soil. Areas that are renovated with new grass or non-permeable hardscape will be discounted from the total of the square footage used to calculate the rebate.
- Existing irrigation systems must be capped off or modified to eliminate spray irrigation. Bubblers, drip and point irrigation are to be used as a conversion from spray irrigation.
- Drought tolerant plants must be added to the landscape to cover sixty (60) percent of the total square foot area measured. Please use the size of the plant at full maturity (height x width = plant value) in the worksheet. All plants must be on the City of Palmdale's approved list or from the booklet, "Plants for the California High Desert."
- Projects must be completed within one hundred twenty (120) days to receive rebates. Applications will be voided after 120 days from the date on the "Notice to Proceed" letter. No extensions will be granted.

The water saving devices must follow the guidelines as follows:

Premium high-efficiency toilets use 20% less water than the standard toilets. To qualify for the toilet incentive, it must be at 1.1 gallons per flush or under, or dual flush toilet must be at 1.0-1.6 gallons per flush or under. Must be WaterSense labeled.

The high-efficiency clothes washers use 55% less water than a standard clothes washer, and to qualify for an incentive the clothes washer must have a water factor of 3.7 gallons or less. Must be WaterSense labeled.

Weather based irrigation controllers (WBIC) automatically adjust the schedule and amount of water needed based on weather conditions. They are more accurate and are customizable. Only WBIC's that are EPA WaterSense Certified qualify for the incentive.

Water Saving Rebate form application.



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WATER SAVING REBATE APPLICATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Purchase and install a qualified high-efficiency water saving device. List of qualifying devices can be found at socalwatersmart.com.
2. Mail a copy of your purchase receipt and completed form to:
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
2029 EAST AVENUE Q
PALMDALE, CA 93550
Or, apply online at palmdalewater.org

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.
2. The water saving device must be purchased by a current and eligible PWD customer, and installed at the customer's address location within PWD's service area.
3. The dated receipt must be provided with the application.
4. For devices purchased online, a print out of the final invoice and original delivery slip must be provided.
5. The application must be received by PWD within 90 days of the original purchase date.
6. The rebate amount may not exceed the cost of the device purchased. Rebate amounts do not apply to sales tax and installation costs.
7. Rebate credits will be applied to the customer's PWD account for the service address identified below within 3-4 weeks.
8. A representative of PWD must be permitted to inspect the property to verify quantity and proper installation, if it is deemed necessary and applicable.
9. PWD may at any time modify, suspend, or terminate this program without prior notice.
10. Irrigation rebate credits are for retrofits of existing sprinklers only; new construction does not qualify.
11. The customer must sign the agreement before the rebate can be issued.
12. The application must meet all requirements. Otherwise, it will be rejected and mailed back to the customer.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____

ACCOUNT HOLDER NAME: _____ OWNER TENANT

SERVICE ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE): _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

REBATE TYPE

- High-Efficiency/Dual Flush Toilet (1.28 gpf or dual flush 1.0-1.6 gpf) qualifies for \$100 rebate.
- High-Efficiency Clothes Washer (water factor 3.7 or less) qualifies for \$150 rebate.
- High-Efficiency Urinal (0.125 gpf) qualifies for \$300 rebate.
- Weather Based Irrigation Controller (Water Sense labeled controllers) qualifies for \$150 rebate.
- Rotating Sprinkler Nozzle qualifies for \$4.00 per nozzle rebate.
- Micro-Irrigation Conversion (minimum of 1,000 linear feet) qualifies for \$0.25 per linear-foot.

Brand: _____

Model #: _____

Units Purchased: _____

Date Installed: _____

SIGNATURE

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions of the program as stated above. I understand rebates paid to me may be subject to State and/or Federal tax reporting according to the IRS guidelines.

Applicants Signature: _____ Date: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: Approved: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Date: _____ Rep's Initials: _____

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4.0 Evaluation Criterion

4.1 Evaluation Criteria A - Project Benefits

Clearly explain the anticipated water management benefits to the Category A applicant's water supply delivery system and water customers.

The Water Use Efficiency Project's main benefit is that it will reduce water use by our customers that in turn will reduce the surface water and ground water reliabilities. Another benefit of reducing water reliability is that less water will have to be distributed and pumped, and therefore will reduce energy consumption. This program is an easy win to help conserve water and allow for more water availability in the future.

Currently, PWD is in its Mandatory Stage 2 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. In this stage customers are only allowed to water outside three days a week, and only between the hours of 6PM and 10AM. Under Stage 1 of PWD's 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan, we have a list of items our customers can do to help with water conservation. One of those items is for them to consider PWD's Water Use Efficiency Programs, and another item is for our customers to consider turf removal and conversion to a Water Wise Landscape. Both recommendations directly involve the Water Use Efficiency Program.

Palmdale Water District has been hosting the Antelope Valley (AV) Conservation Roundtable for over a year. This AV Conservation Roundtable consists of PWD and five other water agencies that include Antelope-Valley East Kern County Water District, Rosamond Community Services Water District, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, Quartz Hill Water District, and Los Angeles County Water District. The purpose of these meetings is for sharing of ideas and uniting in a common conservation message to our customers. If we were able to implement this Water Use Efficiency Program, it would be a great program to share with all the agencies in the Antelope Valley that will in turn help all of the Antelope Valley Community.

4.2 Evaluation Criteria B - Planning Efforts Supporting the Project

PWD recognizes that conserving water is an integral component of a responsible water management strategy. The Water Use Efficiency Program is supported by PWD's Strategic Plan, Urban Water Management Plan, Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and The Water Master Plan. In all of these plans the need for continuous conservation measures is addressed, it be by offering rebate programs or incentives to our customers to make changes to their yards or appliances that will lead to less water use. Water conservation is a common thread that is important and having a conservation program is an easy way for our customer to be able to do their part.

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Under PWD's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan a task for PWD is to maintain a program of water conservation to maintain the current per capita water use and allow water rationing if needed to provide a supply buffer during extreme dry years, and to increase awareness of conservation measures and water use efficiency programs. This directly relates to the Water Use Efficiency Program.

4.3 Evaluation Criteria C - Implementation and Results

PWD is ready to hit the ground running if we were to receive grant funding for the Water Use Efficiency Program Project. PWD already has in place the applications that our customers need to fill out for the appliance rebates and for the Water Wise Landscape Conversion Program. If honored the grant it will allow PWD to increase outreach of this program that is available. The outreach will allow for more widespread knowledge of the program and the importance of conservation, especially now during these tough drought times.

Milestones

Time Frame	Number of Applicants	Expected Turf Removal	Expected Efficiency Toilets Rebate	Expected Efficiency Washer Rebates	Expeced Irrigation Controller Rebates	Local Cost Share	USBR Cost
Jul 2022-Oct 2022	150	20,000 sq.ft.	50	25	50	\$31,250	\$25,000
Oct 2022-Dec 2022	150	20,000 sq.ft	50	25	50	\$31,250	\$25,000
Jan 2023–Jun 2023	150	20,000 sq.ft	50	25	50	\$31,250	\$25,000
Jul 2023-Dec 2023	150	20,000 sq.ft	50	25	50	\$31,250	\$25,000
TOTALS	600	80,000 sq.ft	200	100	200	\$125,000	\$100,000

4.4 Evaluation Criteria D - Nexus to Reclamation

Project would contribute indirectly to the Central Valley Project in that it would reduce demands on trans-basin diversions from California's Central Valley.

4.5 Evaluation Criteria E - Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities

4.5.1 Climate Crisis

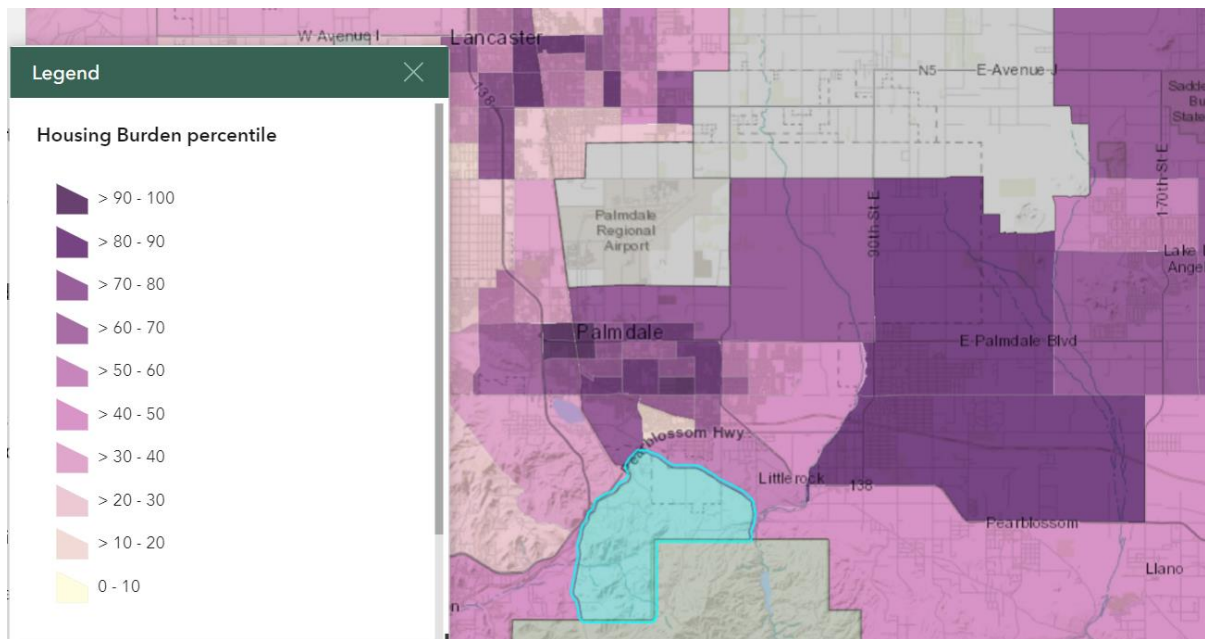
There are a couple of things that are important to address the climate crisis, the first is to spread the word. Getting this grant will allow us to do more outreach and spread the word to our customers and all other agencies in the Antelope Valley. We will make a concerted effort to talk about the climate crisis and what we can do to help. Another important part to address climate crisis is to conserve our water. The Water Use Efficiency Program will do just that. We are tackling ways that will help the conservation of water. Another way to address the climate crisis is to reduce energy use. This project directly relates to that. By reducing water use, we will also reduce energy consumption.

4.5.2 Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

Palmdale Water District has been designated as an economically distressed area by the State of California. Below are graphs that show map representations of the scoring for Palmdale. Disadvantaged communities are defined as the top 25% scoring populations. Palmdale ranks in the top in many areas.

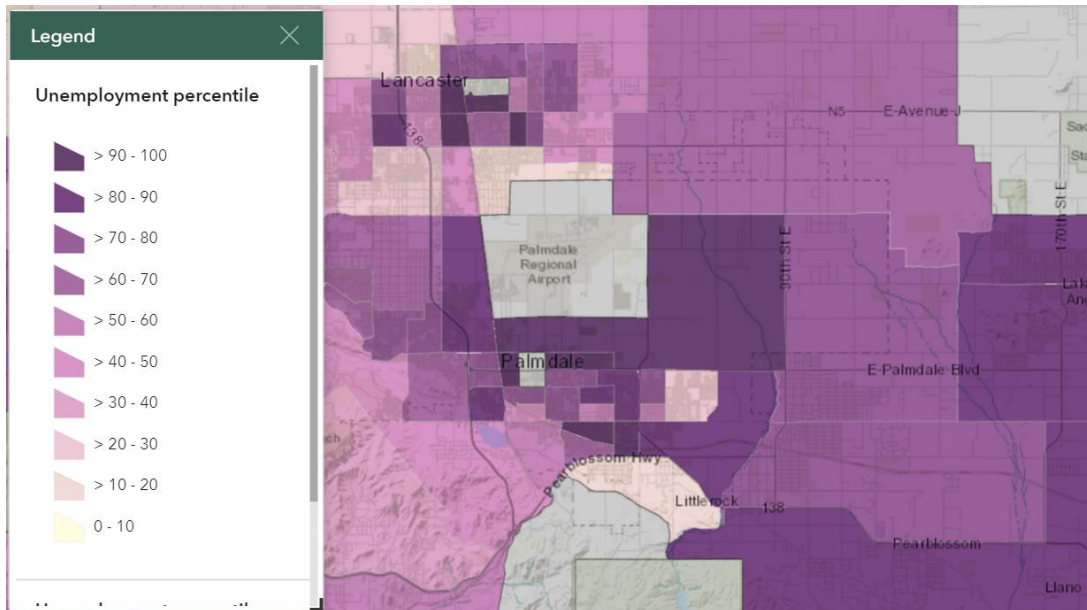
Housing Burden

Housing-burdened low-income households are households that are both low income and highly burdened by housing costs. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty.



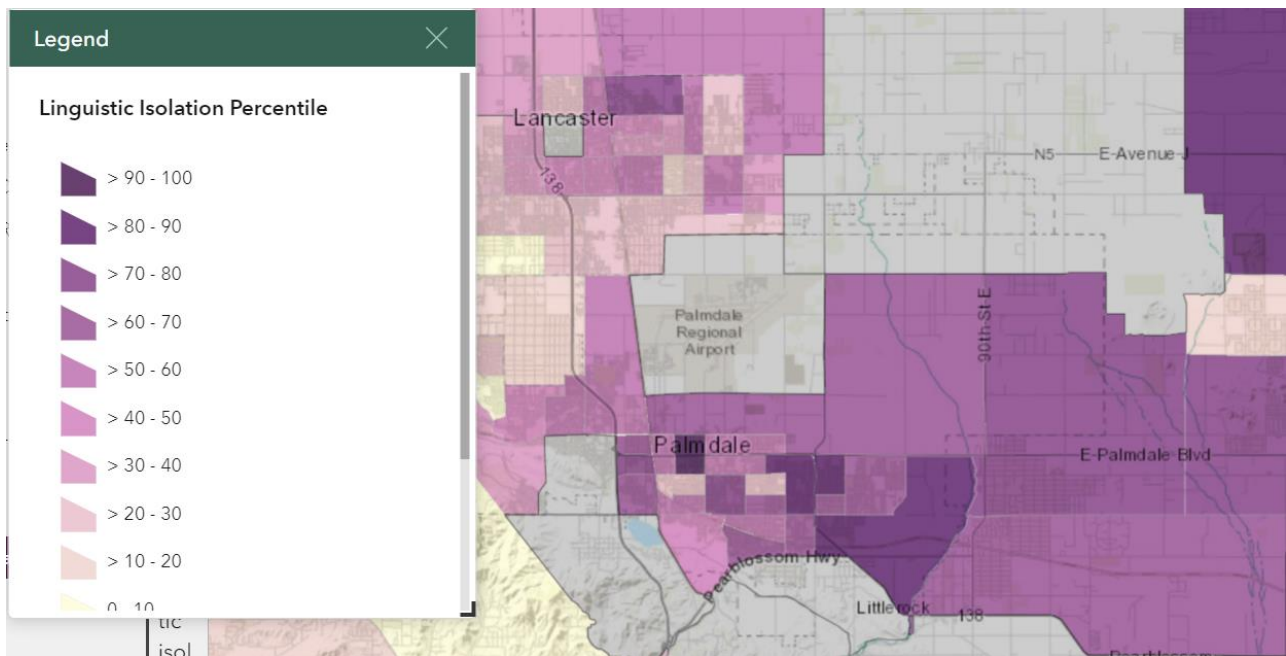
Unemployment

Stress from long-term unemployment can lead to chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, and can shorten a person's life.



Linguistic Isolation

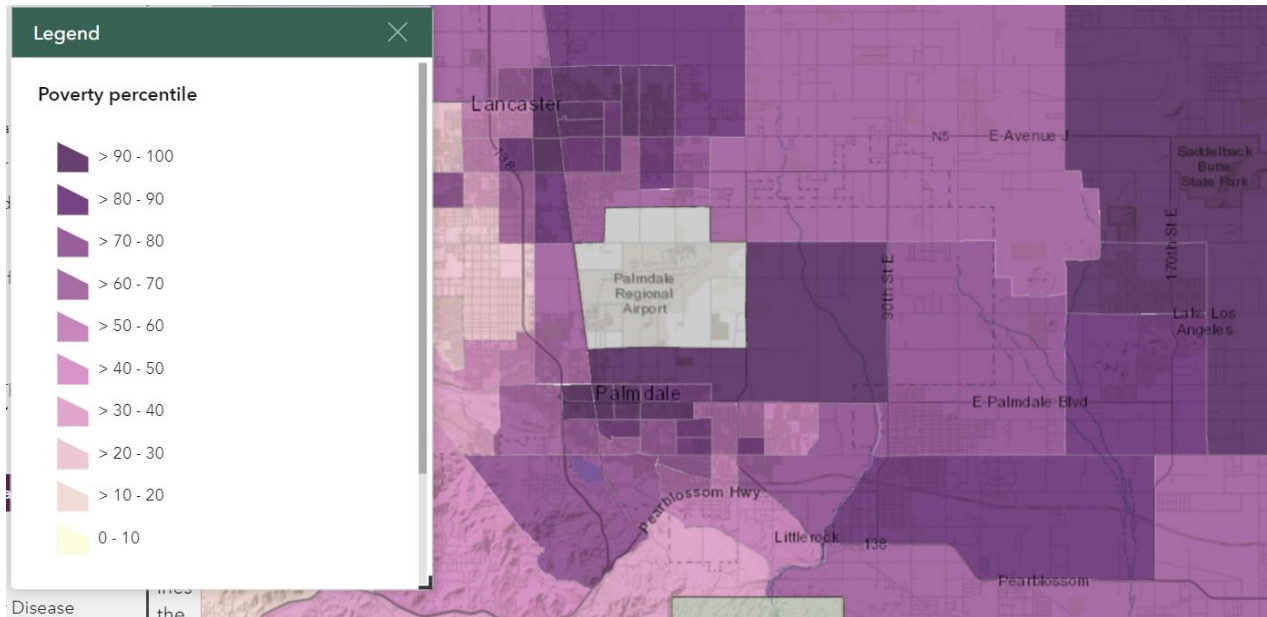
Linguistic isolation is a term used by the U.S. Census Bureau for limited English-speaking households.



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Poverty

If a person or family's total income before taxes is less than the poverty level, the person or family are considered in poverty.



5. OVERLAP OR DUPLICATION OF EFFORT STATEMENT

This grant application does not overlap with any other active or anticipated projects.

The proposal for this grant does not in any way duplicate any proposed project.

6. PROJECT BUDGET

The Palmdale Water District will contribute cash of \$125,000, budgeted, for the project. The project would help meet PWD's water conservation goals as mandated by the State of California. The table below displays a summary of non-Federal and Federal funding sources.

Funding Sources	Amount
Non-Federal	
1. Palmdale Water District (Cash)	\$125,000
Non-Federal Total	\$125,000
Other Federal Entities	
Other Federal Entities	\$ 0
Requested Reclamation Funding	\$100,000

SOURCE	AMOUNT
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Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$100,000
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$125,000
Value of third-party contributions	N/A
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$225,000

6.1 Budget Proposal

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		Quantity Type	TOTAL COST
	\$/Unit	Quantity		
Salaries and Wages				
Employee 1	Not applicable			\$ 0
Fringe Benefits				
Full-Time Employees	Not applicable			\$ 0
Equipment				
Item A	Not applicable			\$ 0
Supplies and Materials				
Item A	Not applicable			\$ 0
Contractual/Construction				
High Efficiency Toilet	\$100	200	each	\$20,000
High Efficiency Clothes Washer	\$150	100	each	\$15,000
Weather Based Irrigation Controller	\$150	200	each	\$30,000
Estimate of 56 home owners	\$ 2.00/Sq. Ft.	80,000	Sq. Ft.	\$160,000
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS				\$225,000
Indirect Costs				
Type of rate	Not applicable			\$ 0
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS				\$225,000

6.2 Budget Narrative

6.2.1 Salaries and Wages

Answer: Not applicable

6.2.2 Fringe Benefits

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Answer: Not applicable

6.2.3 Travel

Answer: Not applicable

6.2.4 Equipment

Answer: Not applicable

6.2.5 Materials and Supplies

Answer: Not applicable

6.2.6 Contractual

Answer: Each homeowner will be required to fill out an application as presented in Section 3 of this WaterSMART application. Each homeowner will be reimbursed based on the square footage of turf replacement for the Water Wise Landscape Conversion Program, or based on the qualifying water saving device they purchase and install with the Water Saving Rebate application.

6.2.7 Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs

Answer: Not applicable

6.2.8 Other Expenses

Answer: Not applicable

6.2.9 Indirect Costs

Answer: Not applicable

6.2.10 Total Costs

Answer: \$225,00

7. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

None affected

8. REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS

None required

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

There are no conflict-of-interest issues.

RESOLUTION No. 22-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT APPROVING THE DISTRICT'S GRANT APPLICATION FOR A WATER USE EFFICIENCY REBATE PROGRAM FOR THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S WATERSMART GRANTS SMALL SCALE WATER EFFICIENCY PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (the "Bureau") has established the WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Program for 2022 (the "WaterSMART Program") to provide funding opportunities for entities seeking new water supplies using water efficiency technology; and

WHEREAS, the Palmdale Water District has need for funding for its Water Use Efficiency Rebate Program to meet future municipal and industrial water needs; and

WHEREAS, the WaterSMART Program requires a \$125,000 non-Federal cost share funding and/or in-kind contribution from applicants, and the Board finds the District has the capability of funding its required share of the Project.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Funding for the Water Efficiency Rebate Program Project (the "Project") under the WaterSMART Grant Program meets the objectives of Strategic Initiative No. 1 – Water Resource Reliability and Strategic Initiative No. 4 Financial Health and Stability.

SECTION 2. If selected for a WaterSMART Grant, up to \$100,000 of the total project costs of \$225,000 through monetary contribution shall be committed for funding the District's proportionate share of the Project, as may be required by the Bureau of Reclamation under the WaterSMART Grant Program, and the District will work with the Bureau to meet established deadlines for entering into an agreement to commit such funds.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 25th day of April, 2022.


Gloria Dizmang, President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:


Kathy Mae Laren Gomez, Secretary, Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, District Legal Counsel