

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: January 24, 2011		Item Number: <u>C-6</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Approval of an Agreement with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation to Implement a Rain Harvesting Program in the City.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Damian Skinner		Phone Number: (310) 253-6421	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☐ Attachments: ☐	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒		Date: _____	
Public Notification: Meetings and Agendas – City Council (01/19/11); Sustainability and Environmental Issues (01/19/11); Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (01/12/11)			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson(01/12/11)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (01/18/11)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by K. Marsden) (01/19/11)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (01/19/11)	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council approve an agreement with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation to implement a rain harvesting program in the City.

BACKGROUND:

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF) is a non-profit organization and a National Estuary Program of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The SMBRF is charged with restoring the resources of Santa Monica Bay by building consensus among stakeholders on environmental issues in Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds and by raising and expending funds for research, education, planning, cleanup efforts, and other priorities identified in the Bay Restoration Plan.

In August 2010, the SMBRF approached staff to implement a rain harvesting program (Program) in Culver City. Rainwater harvesting is the process of capturing rainwater from a roof (or other surface) and putting it to beneficial use.

Rainwater flowing from a downspout onto sidewalks, driveways, and streets collects a variety of pollutants before reaching a nearby storm drain. Capturing storm water that falls on roofs would reduce the amount of runoff reaching Santa Monica Bay.

The proposed Program calls for disconnecting downspouts that discharge to impervious areas and redirecting them to areas where rainwater can percolate into the soil or collect into rain barrels, and installing rain barrels at 500 homes during the

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first year of the Program. In addition, Program participants would have an opportunity to learn more about rain harvesting through marketing at public events, workshops, home consultations, and through educational and instructional literature.

The rain barrels offered through the Program would be sold to participants at a heavily discounted price. SMBRF staff has found that charging a small amount for the purchase and installation of the rain barrels helps to ensure that only residents that are serious about the Program would participate. As a result, the SMBRF will sell the barrel and associated installation for \$40, which is far below their cost of \$300.

On, August 6, 2010 SMBRF staff presented the Program to the Sustainability Subcommittee. Subcommittee members applauded the program and supported bringing the Program to the full City Council for consideration.

DISCUSSION:

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board requires municipalities under their jurisdiction to educate residents about preventing storm water pollution and to implement Best Management Practices (BMP) that would reduce the amount of metal, toxics, and bacteria that enter Santa Monica Bay. Currently, the City annually contributes money to the County of Los Angeles (County) Storm Water marketing campaign to fulfill this requirement. Staff believes that implementing a Culver City marketing campaign would be more impactful than helping to pay for the County's broader program.

SMBRF staff would perform all Program construction activities. Program participants would be asked to sign a waiver to release the City and SMBRF from all liability. Partnering with the SMBRF would commit the City to marketing the program on the City's website and storing Program supplies.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The SMBRF would use approximately \$100,000 out of its operating budget to implement the one-year pilot Program. During the pilot, staff will analyze labor and supply costs to determine which Program components to continue in future years. SMBRF staff will also formally survey participants to gauge the effectiveness of the Program.

To ensure long-term implementation of the Program, SMBRF staff will seek outside funding by applying for grants and/or entering into agreements with water management agencies such as West Basin Municipal Water District and the Water Replenishment District.

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ATTACHMENTS:

None.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

- 1) Approve an Agreement with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation to Implement a Rain Harvesting Program in the City; and,
- 2) Authorize the City Attorney to review/prepare the necessary documents; and,
- 3) Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents on behalf of the City.