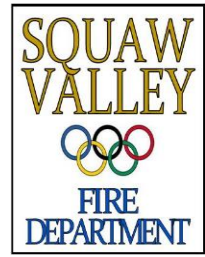




## SQUAW VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



### IRWM Grant Opportunity SVPSD Toilet Exchange Program

**DATE:** May 21, 2015

**TO:** District Water and Sewer Committee

**FROM:** Jesse McGraw, Operations Manager

**SUBJECT:** IRWM Grant Opportunity, SVPSD Toilet Exchange Program

**BACKGROUND:** The Squaw Valley Groundwater Development and Utilization Feasibility Study contains a recommendation the District implement a residential plumbing retrofit program to include a toilet exchange program. The study estimates a savings of up to 10,000 gallons per day for pre 1980 homes and an additional 1,800 gallons per day for post 1980 homes, about 4.3 million gallons annually could be captured by conservation measures.

Due to the current drought situation the State of California is proposing to allocate funds to conservation. The South Tahoe PUD, North Tahoe PUD, and Tahoe City PUD have received grant funds to promote conservation via a toilet exchange and low flow appliance rebate program. The IRWM group spear headed by the South Tahoe PUD is proposing a grant application in the amount of \$494,648 to further their programs and has invited the remaining water agencies in the IRWM group to participate. The project group proposes to divide funds based on size of agency leaving an allocation to the Squaw Valley PSD of \$20,685. In November 2011, District staff investigated and the Board considered a Toilet Exchange Program.

**DISCUSSION:** District staff met and discussed the merits of having a Toilet Exchange Program, the staff time needed to manage the project and the benefits of promoting a limited program using grant funds. Staff believes a pilot project using grant funds would be useful in gauging community response and could be utilized as a tool to measure water conservation results. The IRWM grant process requires a

25% match or \$5,171.25 bringing the project funding total to \$25,856.25 and includes the cost to staff the project. It is estimated the project will result in replacement of 200 or more older water wasting toilets. The project would begin when funding becomes available in spring 2016.

- ALTERNATIVES:** 1. Accept the invitation from the IRWM group to apply for the grant. This alternative will impact staff resources and will cost approximately \$5,171.25.
2. Do not apply for the grant and incur no cost. This could impact the District's ability to meet state requirements for a 25% reduction in water use should the drought continue into 2016.

**FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS:** The project will affect staff resources and will cost approximately \$5,171.25. Direct costs will come from operating funds. Staff time will be allocated to the matching fund requirement thus reducing direct costs by an unknown amount.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff seeks direction from the Sewer and Water Committee

**DATE PREPARED:** May 19, 2015