



# City of Richmond

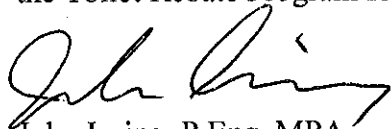
## Report to Council

**To:** Richmond City Council  
**From:** John Irving, P.Eng. MPA  
 Director, Engineering  
**Re:** Toilet Rebate Program Update

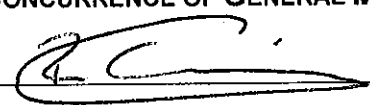
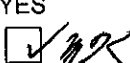

**Date:** July 21, 2011  
**File:** 10-6650-02/2011-Vol  
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### Staff Recommendation

That \$50,000 be allocated from the Water Utility Water Purchases account to continue offering the Toilet Rebate Program for 2011.



John Irving, P.Eng. MPA  
 Director, Engineering  
 (604-276-4140)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY			
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>		<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Budgets	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Water Services	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>
			DEPUTY  YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

At the November 22, 2010 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motion:

“(1) That the 2011 Utility Expenditure Budgets, as outlined under Option 1 for Water and Sewer; and Option 3 for Drainage & Diking and Solid Waste & Recycling, contained in the staff report dated October 28, 2010 from the General Managers of Business and Financial Services and Engineering & Public Works, be approved as the basis for establishing the 2011 Utility Rates;

(2) That staff be directed to report directly to Council with the necessary amendment bylaws to bring into effect the 2011 utility rates option recommended by Committee for the Drainage, Dike and Sanitary Sewer System Bylaw, Waterworks and Water Rates Bylaw, and Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw;

(3) That the amending bylaws presented per recommendation 2 above include a provision to increase the toilet rebate program from the current \$50 credit per toilet to \$100 credit per toilet, with the maximum allowable rebate of \$200 (or two toilets) per household for replacing a 13 litre per flush toilet with a 6 litre or lower per flush toilet;”

Subsequently, at the July 20, 2011 Public Works and Transportation Committee, the following motion was adopted:

“That staff submit a report to the Monday, July 25, 2011 Regular Council meeting regarding the Toilet Rebate Program.”

This report outlines the current status of the Toilet Rebate Program.

### **Analysis**

The City currently offers a \$100 rebate, through the Toilet Rebate Program, for homeowners who replace older, less efficient toilets with new toilets that flush 6 litres or less. The program is important for reducing water consumption and improving sustainability for the City. It also contributes to a guiding principle in Richmond’s Official Community Plan (OCP) to expand waste reduction and water conservation initiatives. Toilets account for around 30% of indoor water usage, and changing to low-flush toilets can reduce up to 60% of toilet water usage (70 litres per person per day).

Staff estimated that \$50,000 would be sufficient for the 2011 Toilet Rebate Program given past levels of participation; however, the program has been a very successful water conservation initiative and interest has exceeded expectation this year. As a result, the estimated \$50,000 funding allocation from the Water Utility has already been fully-subscribed for 2011.

It would be normal practice for staff, at this time, to reject further 2011 applications for toilet rebates. The program continues to be in high demand and there are projected surplus funds available that could be used to extend the Toilet Rebate Program for the rest of this year. Should

Council choose to continue the Toilet Rebate Program in 2011, Staff recommend that \$50,000 be allocated from projected surplus funds from the Water Purchases account.

**Financial Impact**

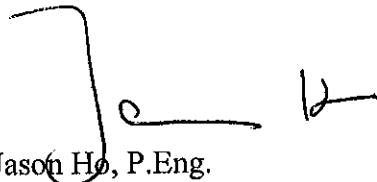
To date, we have spent 43% of the \$20 million Water Purchases budget and we are 50% of the way through the year. This is due to a combination of demand management features, such as less demand for toilet flushing, and a wet start to the summer that has reduced irrigation demand. Staff estimate a \$200,000 surplus in the Water Utility Water Purchases account by year-end. \$50,000 of the projected \$200,000 surplus can be made available to continue the 2011 Toilet Rebate Program without impacting utility rates.

**Conclusion**

The 2011 Toilet Rebate Program has proven extremely successful and current allocated funding has been fully-subscribed. Without additional funding, no further rebates would be issued in 2011. The program continues to be in high demand and Staff recommend that \$50,000 be allocated from projected excess funds from the Water Purchases allotment of the Water Utility account to continue offering the Toilet Rebate Program for 2011.



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JH:jh