

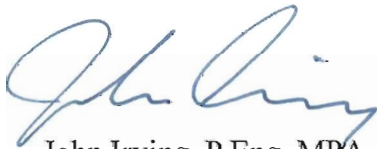


To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** August 27, 2014
From: John Irving, P.Eng. MPA **File:** 10-6060-02-01/2014-
 Director, Engineering Vol 01
Re: **Toilet and Clothes Washer Rebate Program Update**

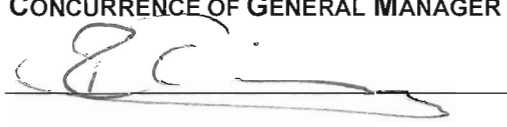

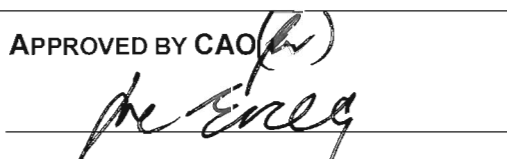
Staff Recommendation

That:

1. the City allocate \$20,000 from existing Water Utility operating accounts to the Clothes Washer Rebate Program; and
2. the Chief Administrative Officer and the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be authorized to update the agreement with BC Hydro to include the additional funding.



John Irving, P.Eng. MPA
 Director, Engineering
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| REPORT CONCURRENCE | | |
|--|---|--|
| ROUTED TO: | CONCURRENCE | CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER |
| Finance Division Water Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE | INITIALS:  | APPROVED BY CAO (for)  |

Staff Report

Origin

At the March 24, 2014 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motions:

- (1) That the City partners with BC Hydro for a combined rebate program in May and October, 2014, which provides a minimum \$100 and maximum \$200 rebate (equally shared between BC Hydro and the City) for the replacement of an efficient clothes washer;
- (2) That the scope of the existing toilet rebate program be expanded to include clothes washer rebates; and
- (3) That the CAO and General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be authorized to enter into an agreement with BC Hydro to execute this program.

The Clothes Washer Rebate Program report, dated March 3, 2014, from the Director of Engineering indicated that participation in the Clothes Washer Rebate Program would be limited to \$20,000. It also indicated that Staff would monitor participation levels and report back to Council with any revised funding level recommendations.

This report updates Council on the status of the Toilet Rebate Program and the Clothes Washer Rebate Program.

Analysis

Toilet Rebate Program

The City has issued 4,511 toilet rebates since 2010, when the Toilet Rebate Program was initiated. There have been 512 toilet rebates issued to date in 2014 and Staff estimate the program to be on track for 800 rebates by the end of this year. This figure matches the \$80,000 allocated for toilet rebates. The demand for toilet rebates continues to be strong and provides metered customers with a practical means to reduce their water bills.

Clothes Washer Rebate Program

This year, the City partnered with BC Hydro on the Clothes Washer Rebate Program for two promotions -- one that occurred in May and a second that is scheduled for October. The agreement offers matching rebates from the City and BC Hydro that provide an incentive for Richmond residents to purchase water and energy -efficient washing machines. Residents are eligible for combined rebates of \$100 or \$200, depending on the energy and water consumption rating of clothes washers purchased during the promotion. The City's agreement with BC Hydro limits the City's contribution to \$20,000.

Since the May promotion, BC Hydro has partnered with Home Depot and Samsung for the October promotion, with each of these organizations offering to match BC Hydro's rebate. The Home Depot rebate will apply to units purchased at Home Depot and the Samsung rebate will

apply to Samsung models. Including City participation, the rebate for a high-efficiency Samsung model purchased at Home Depot will be \$400.

Program participation has been higher than expected, with 173 rebates issued in May. The May promotion utilized \$16,900 of the \$20,000 allocated funding, leaving \$3,100 in allocated funding for the October promotion. Given the larger rebates that will be offered with the additional partners, it is anticipated that there will be higher levels of participation in the October promotion. As such, Staff recommend that a further \$20,000 be allocated from existing Water Utility operating accounts and that the agreement with BC Hydro be updated to limit participation in the October promotion to \$23,100.

Financial Impact

Staff recommend that \$20,000 be allocated from existing Water Utility operating accounts to the Clothes Washer Rebate Program. BC Hydro will cover all costs associated with program administration.

Conclusion

The City partnered with BC Hydro for the Clothes Washer Rebate Program that benefits both organizations through reduced water and power consumption. The program included two promotions – one that occurred in May and a second that is scheduled for October. The May promotion was more successful than anticipated and has utilized most of the allocated funding. Staff recommends that an additional \$20,000 be allocated from existing Water Utility operating accounts and that the agreement with BC Hydro be updated to reflect the additional funding to allow the City to continue to participate in the Clothes Washer Rebate Program.



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