

DATE ISSUED: October 12, 2000 REPORT NO. 00-219

ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Committee
Agenda of October 18, 2000

SUBJECT: Graywater Pilot Program

REFERENCE: Manager's Report No. 99-107, dated May 21, 1999

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

Graywater is untreated household wastewater which has not come into contact with food or toilet waste. It is used water from showers and baths, bathroom sinks and washing machines. It can be reused for irrigation without undergoing a treatment process. It does not include water from toilets, kitchen sinks, dishwashers or laundry water from soiled diapers due to potential health issues. Graywater can be used to irrigate most plants at a household residence, except for vegetable gardens.

Graywater is a form of recycling and therefore reduces potable water consumption. About half of a household's indoor water can be reused as graywater, providing a constant source of recycled water for irrigation. A system must be installed at the home to collect and redirect the graywater to landscaping areas. The system must be designed and installed according to State regulatory guidelines and be inspected locally by the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health. A graywater system usually consists of a plumbing system, surge tank, filter, pump and an approved subsurface irrigation system buried nine inches underground. Graywater can be considered a new source of local water. It is estimated that there exists the potential to capture between 32 and 40 gallons of graywater per person per day from a local single family residence.

The Water Department is monitoring the effectiveness of the local graywater pilot project in the Padre Dam Municipal Water District (Santee, California) and the status of the graywater reclamation project state revolving fund loan application submitted by Chula Vista, California (Otay Water District).

DISCUSSION

The City of San Diego's Water Department has contacted the State Water Resources Control Board, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the State Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation regarding the availability of grant funds to implement a graywater pilot program within the City of San Diego. The Water Department is completing an application for grant funds to support a pilot project. When and if our application is accepted full details of a pilot program will be presented to the NRC.

The Water Department will request City Council approval of any grant application and pilot program details, when specific funding agency participation has been arranged.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry GardnerApproved: Frank Belock
Water Department Director.....Deputy City Manager

GARDNER/CDR