



ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ZONE 7

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**ORIGINATING SECTION: INTEGRATED PLANNING**  
**CONTACT: ROBYN NAVARRA/AMPARO FLORES**

**AGENDA DATE:** January 16, 2019

**ITEM NO. 7c**

**SUBJECT:** Regional Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Training Program (BayQWEL)

**SUMMARY:**

- From 2012 to 2017, Zone 7 offered the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Training Program (QWEL) as part of its conservation program. This program has been managed in-house with the help of a contracted instructor.
- A regional QWEL program (BayQWEL) has been developed to share resources, including qualified instructors, and reduce administrative overhead among Bay Area water agencies. BayQWEL would provide professionals with consistent water management training across the Bay Area and potentially reach a broader audience more cost-effectively. Classes could also be offered in Spanish.
- Staff recommends participation in BayQWEL with two training sessions per year over the next two years (2019 and 2020) conducted in the Tri-Valley. This is expected to result in a total cost savings of about \$31,000, or \$7,700 per class. Such regional partnerships have been a successful component of Zone 7's conservation program.
- Staff recommends that the Board authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute the necessary agreements to participate in the Regional Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Training Program (BayQWEL) from 2019 through 2020, for a cost not to exceed \$42,000, with the option to renew up to two additional years at a cost increase of no more than 10%.

**FUNDING:**

Funds budgeted in Fund 100 (Water Enterprise Fund) for the QWEL program will be transferred to BayQWEL.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt the attached resolution.

**BACKGROUND:**

From 2012 to 2017, Zone 7 offered the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Training Program (QWEL), which has been managed in-house with the help of an instructor under contract. The program trains participants in the Tri-Valley on the following topics: local Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, California Code of Regulations related to conservation and water use efficiency, compliance with local water-use restrictions, Zone 7's water system, and reducing long-term landscape water use through broader adoption of proper care, irrigation management and other maintenance practices for water-efficient landscapes. QWEL complements the Water Efficient Landscape rebate program by producing trained professionals who can assist residential and non-residential customers in implementing rebate-eligible lawn conversion projects.

Since 2017, Zone 7 has not sponsored any QWEL professional training due to the limited number of certified instructors in the Bay Area. Given similar challenges faced by other Bay Area water agencies and recognition of the benefits of the QWEL program, a number of agencies worked together on a proposal for a regional partnership (BayQWEL) that would share resources and reduce administrative

overhead. BayQWEL would provide a series of classes taught by QWEL-certified instructors across the Bay Area. Class size would be limited to 40 students per class, with the goal of training approximately 1,200 landscape professionals over the next two years. BayQWEL would provide professionals with consistent water management training across the Bay Area and potentially reach a broader audience more cost-effectively.

Given the benefits described above, staff recommends participating in BayQWEL. Nine other public water agencies have agreed to participate in this regional training program, including: Alameda County Water District, Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, City of Napa, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Solano County Water Agency (SCWA), and Sonoma County Water Agency. SCWA is the proposed program lead and administrator. Zone 7 has participated in many such successful regional partnerships under the conservation program.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff recommends two training sessions per year over the next two years (2019 and 2020), with one class in English and another in Spanish to provide broader outreach and effectiveness. The proposed rate under BayQWEL is \$9,500 per class. Over two years, BayQWEL is expected to result in a cost savings of about \$31,000 (or \$7,700 per class).

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute the necessary agreements to participate in the Regional Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Training Program (BayQWEL) from 2019 through 2020, for an amount not to exceed \$42,000 (\$9,500 x 4 classes + 10% contingency), with the option to renew up to two additional years at a cost increase of no more than 10%.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Resolution

ZONE 7  
ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION NO.

INTRODUCED BY

SECONDED BY

**Regional Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Training Program (BayQWEL)**

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the importance of conservation and supports Governor Brown's Executive Order B-37-16 ("Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life"), aiming to eliminate waste and reduce outdoor water use; and

WHEREAS, Zone 7 of Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Zone 7) has successfully partnered with other Bay Area water agencies to improve water use efficiency in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area in a more cost-effective way.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Zone 7 of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District hereby authorizes the General Manager to negotiate and execute the necessary agreements to participate in the Regional Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Training Program (BayQWEL) from 2019 through 2020, for an amount not to exceed \$42,000, with the option to renew up to two additional years at a cost increase of no more than 10%.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

I certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Zone 7 of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on January 16, 2019.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Directors