

## **BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! Program Terms and Conditions**

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) **Lawn Be Gone! Program** provides rebates to approved customers that convert water-thirsty lawns to water-efficient landscapes. To be eligible for this program, an applicant must be a customer of a participating BAWSCA Member Agency. A list of the agencies that are participating in the BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! Program for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and their contact information is shown in Attachment A.

The BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! Program will run until June 30, 2012, or until funds last. Funding is limited and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. BAWSCA and the participating member agencies reserve the right to terminate this Program at any time, for any reason.

The following Terms and Conditions apply to the BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! Program. Please read the Terms and Conditions carefully prior to submitting your application.

### **I. Program Eligibility**

- A. **Eligible Applicants:** The Program is available to residential and/or nonresidential customers (Applicants) who purchase water from a participating BAWSCA Member Agency. The Applicant's accounts must be distinctly metered to allow for evaluation of water savings. The Applicant's water account must be in good standing.
- B. **Current Lawn Condition:** Lawn areas to be converted must be maintained and in healthy condition, and be irrigated by a sprinkler system in good working condition. The lawn area must be irrigated with water from the potable water system (i.e., not with private wells or recycled water).
- C. **Current Lawn Location:** Lawn areas to be converted must be front yards or areas visible to the general public from a sidewalk or walkway. No backyards or areas that are not visible to the public are eligible. One of the goals of the BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! Program is to provide visible examples of water-efficient landscapes to the community.
- D. **Current Lawn Size:** A minimum of 200 square feet of lawn must be converted. Smaller projects will be considered if they eliminate 100% of the front, or publically-visible lawn on the Applicant's property.
- E. **Pre-Conversion Site Inspection Requirement:** The Program Rebate Application must be submitted to a participating BAWSCA Member Agency and the Applicant must participate in a Pre-Conversion Site Inspection conducted by, or on behalf of, the participating BAWSCA Member Agency. Lawn removals or conversions that are initiated prior to a Pre-Conversion Site Inspection and the receipt of a Notice to Proceed from a participating BAWSCA Member Agency will not be eligible for this Program.

### **II. Landscaping Requirements for Converted Areas**

- A. **Fifty Percent (50%) Plant Cover Rule:** The converted area must include a sufficient number of plants to ensure at least 50% of the converted area is covered with plants, when fully grown. Plants outside the converted area are not considered in the plant coverage calculation even if they are adjacent to, or overhanging into, the converted area.

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- B. **Plant Type Restrictions:** Plants installed in the converted area must be low water use and adaptable to the local climate. Applicants are encouraged to use native, non-invasive plants. Plants must be listed on the BAWSCA-Approved Plant List, or otherwise demonstrated to be low-water use. For a copy of the BAWSCA-Approved Plant List please visit [www.bawasca.com](http://www.bawasca.com).
- C. **Impermeable Surfaces:** Impermeable surfaces, such as concrete, that do not allow water to penetrate into the ground, are not allowed as part of the converted area. Permeable hardscape is allowed; however, the 50% Plant Cover Rule still applies to the entire converted area. For clarification as to what qualifies as permeable hardscape, please visit [www.bawasca.com](http://www.bawasca.com).
- D. **Artificial Turf:** Rebates will not be provided for artificial turf that is installed within the converted area.
- E. **Mulch Requirements:** All planting areas within the converted area must have a minimum of three (3) inches of mulch. Please note that if a weed barrier is used below the mulch, it must be permeable to air and water.
- F. **Efficient Irrigation System Requirements:** An irrigation system is not required in the converted area. An existing sprinkler irrigation system in the converted area must be removed, capped in place, or converted to a low volume drip. A new irrigation system installed in the converted area must be low volume drip, equipped with proper backflow prevention, a rainfall shutoff valve, a pressure regulator, filter and pressure compensating emitters. The irrigation system in the converted area must be in good working order, and free of leaks and malfunctions. If only part of a lawn area is converted, the converted area must be irrigated on a separate valve from the remaining lawn. The sprinkler system for the remaining lawn must be modified to only irrigate the remaining lawn area and may not spray onto the converted area.

**III. Terms of the Rebate**

- A. **Rebate Term:** Lawn Conversion Projects must be completed within three (3) months following receipt of the "Notice to Proceed" from the participating BAWSCA Member Agency. Because the goal of this program is to achieve significant and lasting water savings, the converted area must remain converted for at least three (3) years following receipt of the rebate. An Applicant may be charged for some, or all, of the rebate amount at the discretion of the participating BAWSCA Member Agency if the Applicant does not maintain the converted area in conversion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this requirement is void upon transfer of ownership.
- B. **Rebate Amount:** The rebate amount is fifty-cents (\$0.50) per square foot of lawn converted. The maximum rebate for residential single-family sites is \$500 and for multi-family residential and non-residential sites is \$3,000. Once a Lawn Conversion Project has been completed and approved, rebates will be issued to the Applicant. Rebates may be issued in the form of a check or a credit on the Applicant's water account.
- C. **Pre-Conversion Site Inspection:** Customers interested in participating in the BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! Program must first submit an application to their water supplier, including their proposed plant list for the converted area. The participating BAWSCA Member Agency will then, at the agency's discretion, accept that application and conduct a Pre-Conversion Site Inspection of the Applicant's site to measure the proposed conversion area and verify that the Applicant's

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proposed Lawn Conversion Project meets the Terms and Conditions. If the Applicant is approved, the participating BAWSCA Member Agency will issue a Notice to Proceed.

- D. **Post-Conversion Site Inspection:** The Applicant is responsible for notifying the participating BAWSCA Member Agency that the Lawn Conversion Project is complete and for scheduling a Post-Conversion Site Inspection. The participating BAWSCA Member Agency will then conduct the Post-Conversion Site Inspection to verify Program compliance. During the Post-Conversion Site Inspection Applicants are required to provide the following documents:
- Final list of plants used in the Lawn Conversion Project.
  - Copy of receipts for plants, irrigation equipment, and other direct costs for the Lawn Conversion Project. Note that the rebate will not cover costs associated with labor and equipment rental.
- E. If the Lawn Conversion Project fails the Post-Conversion Site Inspection, the Applicant will be given thirty (30) days, or the remainder of the three (3) month period, whichever is greater, to make the Lawn Conversion Project consistent with the Program Terms and Conditions. Once the Lawn Conversion Project has passed the Post-Conversion Site Inspection, the rebate will be issued to the Applicant. Rebates may be issued in the form of a check or a credit on the Applicant's water account.
- F. **Photography:** Photographs and/or video recordings will be taken of the property and Lawn Conversion Projects by participating BAWSCA Member Agency staff as part of both the Pre- and Post-Conversion Site Inspections. By accepting the rebate, the Applicant shall release the participating BAWSCA Member Agency, its agents, and employees all rights to exhibit those media in print and electronic form publically and privately for any purpose in the normal course of business. The applicant waives any rights, claims, or interested to control the likeness or identification used in whatever media used. The Applicant's personal identity shall not be published in any form other than solely the Applicant's address. Applicant understands that there will be no financial or other remuneration for recording the subject property for initial or subsequent transmission or playback.
- G. **Additional Responsibilities of the Applicant:** BAWSCA and the participating Member Agencies enforce only the Terms and Conditions of this agreement. The Applicant is solely responsible for complying with any and all laws, regulations, policies, conditions, covenants and restrictions that may apply, and for any and all liabilities arising out of a Lawn Conversion Project. Applicants must comply with all local permitting requirements, and with all state and local laws relating to landscape maintenance and compliance with stormwater regulations.

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**ATTACHMENT A  
LIST OF PARTICIPATING BAWSCA MEMBER AGENCIES**

**Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency**

Contact: Anona Dutton  
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
Ph: (650) 349-3000 Fax: (650) 349-8395  
adutton@bawsca.org  
[www.bawsca.org](http://www.bawsca.org)

**Alameda County Water District (RSF, RMF, CII)**

(510) 668-6534 [www.acwd.org](http://www.acwd.org)

**City of Brisbane/Guadalupe Valley Municipal Improvement District (RSF, CII)**

415-508-2130 [www.ci.brisbane.ca.us](http://www.ci.brisbane.ca.us)

**Coastside County Water District (RSF, RMF, CII)**

650-726-4405 [www.coastsidewater.org](http://www.coastsidewater.org)

**City of Foster City/Estero Municipal Improvement District (RSF, RMF, CII)**

650-286-8140 [www.fostercity.org](http://www.fostercity.org)

**Mid-Peninsula Water District (RSF)**

650-591-8941 [www.midpeninsulawater.org](http://www.midpeninsulawater.org)

**North Coast County Water District (RSF)**

(650) 355-3462 [www.nccwd.com](http://www.nccwd.com)

**City of San Bruno (RSF, RMF)**

650-616-7162 [www.sanbruno.ca.gov](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov)