

Oregon Water Resources Department
Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program
Evaluation for September 2, 2008 Applications

APPLICANT: Hillsboro Water Department / City of Portland Water Bureau
STUDY TYPE: Water Conservation
APPLICATION NO.: GC0023 09
STUDY NAME: HET Rebate / Market Transformation Pilot Program
BASIN: Willamette **WRD DISTRICT:** 18
WRD FUNDS REQUESTED: \$76,500 **TOTAL COST:** \$153,000

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION:

In the next 50 years, the population and water demands will be increasing across the Greater Portland Metropolitan Area. Although high efficiency toilets (HET) are not the answer to all water supply needs, toilets have historically been the largest indoor residential water user and decreasing flush demands to 1.28 gallons per flush has the potential to dramatically decrease indoor water demands.

The purpose of this pilot program is to test-run rebates for HET. This market transformation program is being organized sub-regionally and includes Cities of Portland, Hillsboro, Tigard and Lake Oswego, as well as Tualatin Valley Water District, Clackamas River Providers and Rockwood Water Peoples Utility District (PUD). If the pilot is successful, HET toilets will be mainstreamed as viable and cost-effective options for plumbing installations. For the pilot, rebate programs will be synchronized as much as possible to lessen confusion for retailers and potential HET customers. Also, to ensure that the program not only reduces water demands, but also is a “green” program, in the larger sense, all toilets exchanged for the rebate must be recycled. Toilets can be dropped at the roundup locations or other potential drop-off sites or toilets can be taken to Environmental Conscience Recycling and recycled for \$1.00.

APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM EVALUATION:

The application requested funds for use as rebates and for marketing the program. Applicants provided no description of a feasibility study, evaluation program or information gathering. The Department did not forward this application to the Application Review Team for review.

COMMENTS:

A joint letter of support for this application was received from Niki Iverson, City of Hillsboro, and Lorna Stickel, Portland Water Bureau. The letter indicated that the application did not receive the “proper review” and that the pilot program did indeed meet the application criteria. They indicate that the criteria for review of a pilot program should be better defined and that the Department should not have refused to rate the application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Not Eligible for Funding.