



**Marin Municipal Water District
Board of Directors**

ITEM No.: 6

MEETING DATE:
April 6, 2005

Controller Incentive Program

Engineering Services Division

Controller Incentive Program.

SUMMARY:

This item was reviewed by the District Operations Committee on March 29, 2005 and is referred to the Board with a recommendation for action as shown above.

Staff is recommending augmentation of the ET Controller Incentive Program (Program) that the Board approved on January 5, 2005, to include disbursement of MP Rotator (MPR) irrigation nozzles to qualifying ET Controller Incentive customers. The MPR enhances and corrects poorly designed irrigation systems with minimal effort on the part of the landscape professional and, thereby increases the effectiveness of the ET controller.

Currently, there is no other nozzle on the market that matches the MPR's performance. The MPR is shown to save 25-30% irrigation water in test studies and case audits. The water savings is accomplished by a very slow water application rate that penetrates to the root zone of the plants, and therein eliminates runoff.

Some of the attributes that makes the MPR unique includes:

- The ability to fit any irrigation body so the installer only needs to remove the existing nozzle and replace it with the MPR;
- Matched precipitation rate that distributes an equal amount of water despite sprinkler arc and distance of the spray;
- Flow rate that automatically changes when adjusting the radius of the MPR spray;
- Low application rate of 0.6" per hour which reduces runoff;
- Prevents misting in high water pressure areas and excels in low water pressure areas;
- Increases irrigation system distribution uniformity (DU) (i.e., how evenly water is applied over an area);

- Allows for mixing the distances of spray (8-30 feet) without compromising DU.

Poor DUs, result in the gross misuse of irrigation water. Since the MPR improves DUs, significant water savings can result by installing them. As an example, see the table below:

	Turf Area	Distribution Uniformity	Required Water per Year
Irrigation system without MPR	5,000 square feet	40%	244,372 gallons/327 CCFs
Irrigation system with MPR	5,000 square feet	60%	162,914 gallons/218 CCFs
Annual Water Savings			81,458 gallons/109 CCFs

Staff estimated that a 5,000 square foot lawn would need 32 MPRs for proper coverage. The cost for 32 MPRs is \$128.00 (\$4.00 each), which would save .25 AF annually. Based on the example above, the avoided cost per AF is \$512.00. Because of the water savings, staff is recommending the District offer these MPRs at no cost to our customer as part of the Program package. The budget for the current Program is sufficient to cover additional costs to those applying for the MPR this fiscal year. Staff estimates the future costs to be \$10,000 per fiscal year.

In the future, staff will consider extending this offer to interested customers wishing to upgrade their irrigation system that are not applying for the ET Controller Incentive Program.