

Application # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# HIGH DESERT SAVES WATER - Cash for Grass Program

Mojave Water Agency, in partnership with your local water agency and the California Department of Water Resources, is offering property owners a rebate cash incentive to remove living and maintained lawn and replace it with water-efficient landscaping through the Cash for Grass Program. Beginning November 2011, rebates will again be offered to customers within the Mojave Water Agency service area at \$0.50 per square foot to replace lawn with low water using landscaping. This program offers financial incentive to customers by offsetting a portion of the project cost of converting water-thirsty lawn to native and desert adaptive landscaping over 25% of the project area.



Program funding is limited on a first-come, first saved basis.



- REQUIREMENTS:** Please read all program rules carefully before submitting this application.
1. Starting without water agency pre-approval will make your landscape conversion project ineligible for participation in this program.
  2. Read all application information before signing below and agreeing to the program terms.
  3. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first serve basis while funding is available.
  4. MWA, at its discretion, may at any time modify, suspend, or terminate this program without prior notice.
  5. Please submit this original application only after application is completed and all necessary items listed are included.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Customers served by local water districts/municipalities:

Program application must be received by your local water district and **pre-approved** by your local water district before removing any lawn and beginning the landscape conversion project. Your water district may require your presence at the site pre-inspection before providing approval for your project.

See item "PRE-CONVERSION INSPECTION" on other side of this application for more information.

### Customers served by water retailers and those receiving water from sources such as wells or water haulers:

Program application and your most recent property tax statement must be mailed to the Mojave Water Agency and **pre-approved** by Mojave Water Agency before removing any lawn and beginning the landscape conversion project. MWA will require your presence at the site pre-inspection before providing approval for your project.

See item "PRE-CONVERSION INSPECTION" on other side of this application for more information.

Areas to be converted must be **living and maintained lawn** only.

Residential landscape conversion limits – 100 square feet (sq. ft.) minimum up to 6,000 sq. ft. maximum.

Commercial/Industrial/Institutional (CII) landscape conversion limits – 100 sq. ft. minimum up to 20,000 sq. ft. maximum.

Applicant must participate in a post-inspection to receive approval of the landscape and irrigation system conversion and before a rebate check is issued.

Once your project is completed, contact Mojave Water Agency to schedule a post-inspection at 760-946-7055.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner _____	Date _____
Service Address _____	
Mailing Address (if different than above) _____	
City _____	Zip _____
Daytime Phone ( ) _____	Evening Phone ( ) _____
Email Address _____	
My Water District _____	
My Account Number or APN (Please refer to your water bill or property tax statement) _____	
How did you hear about the program? Mailer__ Newspaper__ Radio__ AWAC__ Website__ Other_____	

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY PRE-INSPECTION INFO

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Application # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Account # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water District Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Site \_\_\_\_\_

Residential   
 Multi-Family   
 CII

Sq Ft grass to be removed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sq Ft Plants to Install (25%) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of irrigation in area \_\_\_\_\_  
 Due date for completion \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date photo taken (attached) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inspector signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Owner signature \_\_\_\_\_

## POST-INSPECTION INFO

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sq Ft removed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sq Ft of plant cover installed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Converted to drip irrigation  
 Yes   
 No   
 Date photo taken (attached) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inspector Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please read the paragraph below carefully **before signing**. If you do not fully understand each of the statements, call your water district!

I am the rightful owner or owner's agent for the property described above and I agree to abide by the rules of this program. This application has been accurately completed and the information here is intended to meet the program requirements. I may be disqualified if my irrigation system is found to have any serious inefficiencies during the irrigation audit. I will not begin my landscape conversion replacement project until I have been notified that my application has been pre-approved at or following the pre-conversion inspection.

Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS

Installation of at least 25% living plant coverage is required at the time of post-inspection to receive approval for a rebate.

Plant lists are available through your local water district or municipality and the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC) [www.hdawac.org](http://www.hdawac.org) website.

Remaining lawn areas and existing landscaping are not considered in the 25% plant coverage calculation.

Plants and lawn outside the converted area are not covered or considered in the rebate calculation even if they are adjacent or overhanging into the area.

It is recommended that converted areas be covered by a minimum two (2) inch layer of permeable mulch and this may be a requirement in your area.

Mulches may include bark, rock, un-grouted stepping stones, and permeable artificial turf. **Non-permeable materials like plastic film and concrete are not permitted** in the conversion area.

## IRRIGATION SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

If a spray irrigation system is currently being used, it must be converted to a low-volume drip system equipped with a pressure regulator, filter and emitters providing irrigation to new plantings.

Each drip emitter must be rated at less than 20 gallons per hour (gph).

Spray irrigation is not permitted in the landscape conversion area and must be capped off if not converted to drip irrigation.

If part of a lawn is converted, the sprinkler system must be properly modified to provide adequate coverage to the remaining lawn without spraying the converted area.

## REBATE TERMS

The terms of this agreement expire in SIX calendar months from the date the application is approved on the date of the pre-inspection. Extensions are not available.

The final post-inspection is not counted against the six-month time limit once your water district or Mojave Water Agency has been notified that your project is complete and that a post-inspection is needed.

Only one application per site may be received under this agreement and only one rebate per site will be processed.

Mojave Water Agency and your water district reserve the right to reject or limit the number of applications being processed.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis and only while funding is available or until the program is discontinued.

## REBATE AMOUNT

The Mojave Water Agency Cash for Grass rebate is \$0.50 per square foot for approved landscape conversions.

If additional rebate dollars are provided by your local water district, it will be added to your rebate check.

Cash for Grass rebate amounts:

\$50.00 up to \$3,000 per site – Single Family Residential

\$50.00 up to \$10,000 per site– Commercial, Industrial and Institutional

Rebate checks are issued to the property owner within 60 days after the post-inspection.

## PRE-CONVERSION INSPECTION

Pre-inspections of your existing landscape will be conducted by your local water district or municipality. Applicants who receive water by well or water hauler service will be pre-inspected by Mojave Water Agency. Your application must be pre-approved during the enrollment period and before removing any lawn to begin a conversion.

Photos of the existing lawn will be taken during the landscape pre-inspection.

Your local water district **requires** that you, or an authorized person over the age of 18, be present during the pre-conversion inspection.

## POST-CONVERSION INSPECTION

Once the landscape conversion project is finished, you are responsible for notifying Mojave Water Agency to schedule a post-inspection at 760-946-7055.

You, or an authorized person over the age of 18, are required to be on premise during the post-inspection.

The post-inspection will include taking photos of the converted landscape, obtaining converted landscape area measurements, irrigation system inspection, plant eligibility review for program compliance and rebate eligibility verification.

If the converted landscape or irrigation system fails post-inspection, you will be notified, provided explanation, & granted 30 (thirty) days to complete the post-inspection process.

No additional extensions are allowed.

## CONVERSION SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The converted area must remain in compliance with all program conditions for a period of two (2) years.

If the landscaping is altered during this two (2) year period, you may be required to refund some or the entire rebate if this requirement is violated.

Landscape and plant maintenance, plant quality and appearance before, during, and after the conversion are the sole responsibility of the applicant.

This requirement is void upon property transfer of ownership.

## OTHER APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Mojave Water Agency enforces only the conditions of this agreement. Partnering water districts may have additional requirements as codified in their respective districts.

The applicant is responsible for complying with all laws, policies, codes and covenants that may or do apply.

**Program rebates for \$600 or more may be considered taxable income. Check with a tax professional for your specific tax filing requirements.**

Disclaimer – MWA reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet all of the requirements of the MWA "Cash for Grass" rebate incentive Program, and MWA makes no representations or warranties as to the condition, quality, effectiveness, operability or cost of installing or maintaining residential, multi-family, commercial, industrial, or institutional landscapes subject to this program, or of removing or disposing of any landscape or irrigation equipment debris in connection therewith and, to the extent not prohibited by law, disclaims all express and implied conditions, representations and warranties related thereto, including without limitation, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Limitation of Liability/Release – Applicant understands and agrees that, to the extent not prohibited by law, in no event shall MWA, its officials, officers, employees or agents be liable for any claimed or actual damages or losses of any kind, however caused and regardless of the theory of liability, related in any way to this landscape "Cash for Grass" rebate incentive program, even if MWA has been advised of the possibility of such damages or losses. To the extent not prohibited by law, applicant assumes all risks associated with this program, including without limitation, all risks associated with purchase, installation and maintenance of landscape material and irrigation system equipment subject to this program (including without limitation the risk of not realizing cost savings as a result of converting to low water use landscape), and the removal and disposal of any landscape materials, irrigation system equipment, and landscape maintenance debris in connection therewith. Applicant releases MWA its officials, officers, employees and agents from any and all claims for damage or death or injury to any persons or property arising in any way from this "Cash for Grass" landscape rebate incentive program, any landscape material disposal, irrigation system equipment, or landscape maintenance and equipment subject to this program (including without limitation the use or operation thereof), or the removal or disposal of any landscape materials and irrigation system equipment in connection therewith, other than those caused solely by the willful or grossly negligent acts or omission of MWA.