

DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: Dec. 9, 2009

Board Item: V-E-8

**Water Conservation Retrofits for  
Denver Home Foreclosure Programs**

Action by Consent

Action

Information

Federal stimulus funding has been allocated by the City to Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) and Denver Housing Authority (DHA) to purchase, rehabilitate and resell foreclosed single family and multi-family properties. The entities expect to rehabilitate and resell up to 100 total properties. Denver Water has partnered with the City and County of Denver to ensure that water efficient updates are made to foreclosed homes prior to resale in the service area. Each agency has created a separate entity under which the federal funding and program management take place: Denver Neighborhood Revitalization Inc. (DNRI) was created by DURA and Neighborhood Development Collaborative (NDC) was created by DHA. The contract terms are each through December 2010 and may be extended.

Each entity has a contract with identical offerings from Denver Water. For each property or unit Denver Water will provide water-efficient showerheads, aerators, and up to three high-efficiency toilets. If replacement of the clothes washer and dishwasher is warranted, Denver Water will provide up to \$300 for each qualifying Energy Star appliance. Leaks on the property will also be repaired as part of the rehabilitation. Each contract also provides for up to \$3,000 per property toward water efficient landscaping and irrigation systems. Landscape plans that limit turf and supply efficient irrigation must be approved by Denver Water prior to installation. All properties will be inspected prior to any payment for indoor or outdoor improvements.

With the increased number of foreclosed properties in our service area, Denver Water sees this as an opportunity to not only demonstrate the water savings that can be achieved in these homes, but also to show attractive uses of water wise landscaping at homes where a new owner might typically re-establish turf from property line to property line and use an inefficient irrigation system.

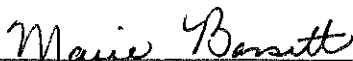
Estimated savings per property will vary dramatically depending on size, age, condition, number of people in the household and amount of landscaping. As an example, a single family residence that was built prior to 1980 and is on a large lot might see a savings of 134,000 gallons annually, with about half of that coming from landscape conversion. Multi-family properties might see additional savings as a whole, but significantly less savings on a per unit basis.

This item is budgeted for under Master Planning Code 4EA0029.

Recommendation:

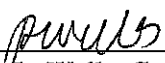
It is recommended that the Board approve contract #12463A and #12464 A, for an amount not to exceed \$180,000 each, for a total \$360,000.

**Approvals:**

  
Marie Bassett, Director of Public Affairs

Respectfully submitted,

  
H. J. Barry, Manager

  
Patricia L. Wells, General Counsel