

**From:** [Diane Trautman](#)  
**To:** [April Jacobs](#)  
**Subject:** October 4 Board Meeting - Comments on Agenda Item 6.2  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 4:32:24 PM

---

CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER

---

Hello April,

I would appreciate it if you would share my comments with the board in advance of tonight's meeting regarding Agenda Item 6.2 titled: Authorize the General Manager to Implement Modifications to SCV Water's Lawn Replacement Program..

Thank you!

---

I just read the the Water Resources and Watershed Committee recommendations to improve the LRP and I strongly support them. The LRP is a good program and this proposal will take it to the next level.

My husband Allan and I participated in the LRP back in 2016. We would have put in rain barrels as part of our plan had that incentive existed at the time. I think that any and all options for water capture are important and should be part of the agency's plan to incentivize the community. In many of the reports I've read, we are very likely to have heavy rains that follow droughts, and I suspect that many customers would jump at the opportunity to make water capture a part of their landscaping.

For our lawn renovation, we used a designer and installer who recommended sheet mulching. Given our clay soil in the SCV, I think it should be encouraged through the rebate program. Watching drought tolerant and California native plants die because the soil is not receptive will not help the problem gain support. In that same vein, people need to be informed that these plants take some time to fill in so they don't have unrealistic expectations.

Providing a list of consultants and designers is an excellent idea, but I'm curious as to how the design incentive was priced. It could be quite expensive for a larger property that is covered in the LRP. The plan to coordinate with local nurseries can be very helpful because making people hunt down appropriate plants can be a daunting task.

Encouraging the use of bee and monarch butterfly friendly plants would, I suspect, be very popular. And among the bonus rebate suggestions, owl boxes might encourage more natural control of vermin if we can also simultaneously educate people about the dangers of rodenticides.

Clearly, the community needs to be better educated about the beauty and benefits of sustainable yards/gardens. Through rebranding the program and with the rebates and resources recommended by the committee, I think the agency will be better able to meet its goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Diane Trautman  
(661) 904-8850  
d.trautman@icloud.com  
27665 Myrin Court  
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

