



South Tahoe Public Utility District Turf Buy-Back Program 2009

I. PRE-CONVERSION ELIGIBILITY

1. Areas to be converted must lie within the service area, either water or wastewater, of South Tahoe Public Utility District.
2. Areas to be converted must be irrigated/maintained lawn, not native grasses or vegetation. A conservation specialist will visit the property to verify that the lawn is currently being watered.
3. At least 400 square feet of lawn must be converted. Smaller projects are accepted if they:
 - completely eliminate lawn on commercial, institutional, or multi-family property
 - or eliminate the front or back lawn of a single-family dwelling.
4. Properties affected by the Angora Fire that plan on re-landscaping according to the Turf Buy Back Landscape requirements are accepted for the first 800 square feet of landscape.
5. Before removing any lawn or ceasing irrigation, the application must be submitted to the District and the applicant must participate in a District pre-conversion site review. Beginning the project without District approval will make the conversion ineligible.

II. LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS FOR CONVERTED AREAS

1. **Efficient Irrigation:** If a watering system is used, it must be drip irrigation equipped with a filter pressure regulator and emitters. Each drip emitter must be rated at less than 20 gallons per hour (gph). If only a portion of lawn is converted, the sprinkler system must be properly modified to provide adequate coverage to the remaining lawn without spraying the converted area. Narrow lawns are difficult to efficiently irrigate and should be avoided.
2. **Surface Treatments:** The converted area must be completely covered by a layer of mulch permeable to air and water. Common mulching materials include rock, bark, and wood chips. Living groundcovers qualify as mulch provided the individual plants are installed in sufficient density to assure 100% plant cover. If a weed barrier is used beneath the mulch, it must be designed to be permeable to air and water.
3. **50% Living Plant Cover:** At completion, converted areas must contain enough plants to create at least 50 percent living plant cover when the plants are fully grown. Local area nurseries can help you in choosing plants and groundcovers that will meet your personal aesthetic requirement as well as the District's coverage requirements.

III. TERMS OF THE REBATE

- 1. District's Assurance:** This agreement expires in six calendar months. The six-month term begins the day after the District approves the agreement and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the first business day after six calendar months have elapsed. Once you notify the District of completion of your converted turf area, any delay for a final inspection by the District is not counted against the six-month term. Only one payment may be received under this agreement; future conversions require a new application.
- 2. Incentive Amounts and Limits:** The incentive is \$2.00 per square foot of qualifying conversion for the first 1,500 square feet. The incentive for areas in excess of 1,500 square feet will be \$1.50 per square foot. Rebates will be awarded up to \$5,000. If installing new landscape in the Angora Fire area, the incentive is \$1.00 per square foot up to \$800.00. The District may reject or limit applications based on the availability of funds. Checks are issued only to the property owner or owner's legally appointed representative (typically 30-60 days after final inspection). Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the State Water Resources Control board, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.
- 3. Final Inspection:** After notification of the project's completion, the District will conduct an inspection to verify program compliance. If the conversion fails inspection, the applicant will be allowed 60 days or the remainder of the six-month period, whichever is greater, to comply with the program conditions.
- 4. Requirement To Sustain the Conversion:** The converted area must remain in compliance with all program conditions for a period of 5 years. This requirement is voided upon transfer of ownership. You may be required to refund all or a portion of the rebate should this requirement be violated.
- 5. Other Responsibilities of the Applicant:** The District enforces only the conditions of the conversion rebate agreement. The applicant is responsible for complying with all laws, policies, codes, and covenants that may apply. For information on Best Management Practices or Fire Defensible Space please contact TRCD at 530.543.1501 or your local fire department. Please consider defensible space in your conversion, as we live in a high risk fire zone. Quality and appearance of the conversion is the responsibility of the applicant. Lawn must be removed entirely, not just relocated.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge I have read and understand the terms of the District's Turf Buy-Back Program. I have received a copy of the application and understand that pertinent dates are referenced in the application. Recognizing that this program is grant funded, some of the information regarding APN and pictures of the conversion site may be released to determine the effectiveness of this program. I understand that the Internal Revenue Service requires Rebate Program participants receiving \$600 or more in rebates to be issued an IRS Form 1099. This information will be collected in a W-9 Form by the District. For more information call 530-543-6268 or fax 530-541-4326.

Property Owner Signature _____ Date _____

District Signature _____ Date _____