
Attendees:

Stew Winchester
Kate Creighton
Michael Thilgen
Jolene Bertetto
Kristin Bowman
Alisa Rose Seidlitz
Sundong Kwong

EBMUD “Refresher” Garden Grants

- I. The sub-committee reviews the updated maintenance template that Stew and Kristin put together in preparation for this meeting
 - a. Monterey Bay-Friendly principles used as basis for this document
 - b. The template will be further developed and customized for each grant recipient to include frequency and seasonal maintenance guidance
- II. The sub-committee revisits the monitoring/enforcement of these maintenance guidelines
 - a. There is real value (for EBMUD) in EBMUD staff taking the time to monitor gardens for these reasons:
 - i. Salaried EBMUD staff are more reliable than volunteers to continue performing maintenance check-ups years after a garden has received a grant
 - ii. EBMUD staff have the authority of EBMUD and their visit/directives will be taken more seriously than those of a volunteer
 - iii. Similar demonstration garden programs in the past have relied on volunteer monitoring and consistently failed over a 10 year period
 - b. There may be other organizations outside of this sub-committee and EBMUD that we could draw upon, such as APLD and county Master Gardeners Associations.
- III. Review of “Community Watersmart Garden Refresher Grant Maintenance Agreement”
 - a. Suggestions for additions to the “Resources” listed to help recipients choose plants (in addition to EBMUD book)
 - i. EBMUD strongly interested in resources that designate water requirements for plants
 1. WUCOLS, UC Davis Drought Devils list
 2. Calflora and Calscape (do not designate water requirements)
 - ii.
 - b. Suggestions for maximizing plant compatibility and water efficiency
 - i. Flexibility with individual garden site plant lists is integral to the success of program
 1. Plants depend on environment and microclimates (and WUCOLS does not always capture that in its ratings)
 2. EBMUD will have a plant list review process in order to assess plant list compatibility with site conditions
 - ii. Will submeters be required and/or provided by EBMUD for gardens that do not already have them.
 1. Kristen will ask EBMUD higher-ups

2. Without sub-meter it is hard to demonstrate water efficiency and educate visitors with real numbers. Committee encourages EBMUD to pay for sub-meters for grant recipients.
- c. Re-wording and clarifying the “Interactive Display” requirement.
 - i. “Educational aspect” is suggested to replace “interactive display”
 1. signage, plant list, brochure, qr code, app, etc...
- d. Re-wording minimizing fertilizer clause
 - i. Remove “slow release”
 - ii. Gardens should be encouraged to minimize the use of organic supplemental fertilizers and stop the use of synthetic fertilizers
 - iii. Compost should also be encouraged