



# Water Conservation Toilet Replacement Program

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Quality of Life Committee  
September 12, 2005



# Briefing Objectives

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- Provide status of Toilet Replacement Pilot Program
  - Background
  - Program Concept
  - Vendor Recommendation for Price Agreement
- Seek Committee support for Sept 28 agenda items



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Background

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- April 13, 2005, Council adopted Five-year Strategic Plan for Water Conservation
  - Three major elements
    - City leadership and commitment
    - Education and outreach initiatives
    - Rebate and incentive programs



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Background Continued

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- Five-year Strategic Plan (continued)
  - Year-1 Work Plan in process
    - Continue current level of public awareness campaign and grassroots outreach
    - Audit City facilities for potential water conservation upgrades
      - Consultant auditing variety of City facilities
      - Indoor and outdoor auditing
      - Results of audit will be used to develop 10 year retrofit plan
      - See appendix for list of facilities
    - Develop K-12 Education Program
    - Implement a Toilet Replacement Pilot Program



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Rationale

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- Plumbing Code changes in 1992 requiring low flow fixtures on new construction
- High percentage of Dallas homes built prior to 1992 (approximately 95%)\*
- Potential water savings 10.5 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) per ultra low flow (ULF) toilet installed
- Further demonstrates City leadership and commitment to conservation
- Program will assist underserved residents who do not typically participate in rebate programs for the general public

\*Based on U.S Census Bureau Data



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Concept

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- Target low-income and senior citizen customers
- Partner with non-profit and faith-based community partners that serve this population to help:
  - Identify applicants
  - Qualify based on established criteria
  - Help with disposal of old toilets to ensure integrity of program
  - Provide plumber referrals
- Program not promoted in mass media
  - Limited number for pilot program
  - Program focuses on low-income and senior citizen groups
- Old toilets will be crushed and used by Sanitation Dept. for fill material at McCommas Bluff Landfill



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program

## Nonprofit Partners

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- Have held discussions and two meetings with Community Nonprofits that serve English and Spanish speaking clients
  - Introduced program concept
  - Received input/feedback from nonprofits
- Program will be promoted to low-income under-served sectors of the community
- Discussions with following agencies:
  - Alameda Heights Community Center
  - Jewish Family Services of Dallas
  - La Voz del Anciano
  - The Senior Source
  - Shared Housing Program
  - Urban League of Greater Dallas



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Concept Continued

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- Qualifying Criteria
  - Household income 50% of area median income
  - Current DWU customer
  - Applicant must own property
  - Current on property taxes
  - Current on water bill
- Criteria consistent with other City housing and home repair programs





# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Concept Continued

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- Coordination with other City Programs
  - Housing Department Home Repair Programs
  - Water Utilities Volunteers in Plumbing Program (VIP)
    - Coordinate database to prevent duplication
  - Coordinate referrals to maximize service delivery
    - Refer clients to other programs that might be better suited for them
    - Forward referrals received from other programs for toilet replacement needs to nonprofit partners



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Components

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- Free Toilets
- Free Low flow showerheads and faucet aerators
- Installation Rebate



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Components Continued

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- Free Toilets
  - Qualified applicants will receive up to two ULF toilets per household
  - Toilets will be delivered directly to the applicant's home
- Applicant has two installation options
  - Self-install
  - Hire licensed plumber to install and apply for rebate



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Components Continued

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- Low flow showerheads and faucet aerators
  - DWU has provided these fixtures in the past at various events
  - Program provides an opportunity to replace existing fixtures with low-flow fixtures through a structured approach that will allow for tracking of water savings
  - Each home would receive up to two faucet aerators and showerheads (if home has showers)
  - Potential water savings for fixture retrofits are 5.5 gpcd for showerheads and 2.0 gpcd for faucet aerators



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Components Continued

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- Toilet Installation Rebate
  - Installation must be done by a licensed plumber as required by City Code to qualify for the rebate
  - Rebate amount up to \$75 per toilet (two toilet maximum per household)
  - Rebate will be offered during pilot phase only
  - An analysis will be performed at the end of the project to determine feasibility of continuing financial rebates



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Vendor Selection

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- Request for bid solicited through Business Development and Procurement Services on-line system from July 21, 2005 through August 5, 2005
- 3 bids received
  - Apex Supply Company
  - Goodman Plumbing Supply
  - Niagara Conservation, Inc. submitted the winning bid
    - Founded 1977
    - Specialize in water and energy conservation products and programs
    - Have participated in numerous municipal and water district toilet replacement programs throughout the U.S to include: San Antonio, Austin, Los Angeles, El Paso, and others



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Proposed Budget

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|------------------------------------|-----------|
| ■ Pilot Program (520 retrofits)    |           |
| ■ Toilet purchase and delivery     | \$70,200  |
| ■ Installation Rebates             | \$39,000  |
| ■ Administration Fees (nonprofits) | \$20,800  |
| ■ Showerheads & Aerators           | \$1,170   |
| <br>                               |           |
| Total Program Budget               | \$131,170 |



# Toilet Replacement Pilot Program Summary

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- City will partner with community nonprofits to offer low flow toilet, showerhead and aerator replacements to qualifying low income and senior citizens
- Pilot program will run from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006 or until funds are expended
- Per Strategic Plan, toilet replacement program recommended to continue in subsequent years subject to Council appropriation
- Program will be available to all qualifying customers of DWU throughout the city
- Program will assist underserved segment of the community





# Toilet Replacement Program Agenda Items (September 28<sup>th</sup>)

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- DWU seeking Committee support to award price agreement to Niagara Conservation (Cost consideration: \$71,370)
- DWU seeking Committee support to proceed with installation rebate component of program (Cost consideration: \$39,200)



# Next Steps

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- Follow-up briefing to Quality of Life Committee to update on program accomplishments (March 2006)