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Agenda Item #8  
REPORT #RWSC 2010 – 01

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2010**

SUBJECT      REBATE PROGRAMS UPDATE

PURPOSE

To update the Regional Water Supply Commission on the status of 2009 rebate applications as a result of the public response to the discontinuation of the rebates in 2010.

BACKGROUND

Rebates for toilets were first introduced in 1994 to promote their acceptance and to reduce residential water use. The SmartWash program was introduced in 2002 to promote the sale of high efficiency front loading washing machines which use about one third of the water used by conventional top loaders. As a result of changes in plumbing regulations, toilets using 6 litres or less have been mandatory in British Columbia since September 5, 2008, and hi-efficiency machines have become the norm in the market place. As a result, the Commission approved ending rebate programs as of December 31, 2009. The public and retailers were notified of the impending cancellation of the programs in November and December.

ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The following table summarizes the applications in 2009. More toilet applications were received in November and December than in the previous 10 months.

REBATE PROGRAM		UNITS
Toilet	To December 31, 2008	17,448
	January 1 to October 31, 2009	4,199
	November 1 to December 31, 2009	5,027
	<b>2009 Sub-Total</b>	<b>9,226</b>
	2009 Target	2,350
	<b>Program Total</b>	<b>26,674</b>
Smartwash	To December 31, 2008	10,108
	January 1 to October 31, 2009	2,501
	November 1 to December 31, 2009	1,361
	<b>2009 Sub-Total</b>	<b>3,862</b>
	2009 Target	2,500
	<b>Program Total</b>	<b>13,970</b>
Controller	To December 31, 2008	2,557
	January 1 to October 31, 2009	221
	November 1 to December 31, 2009	54
	<b>2009 Sub-Total</b>	<b>275</b>
	2009 Target	290
	<b>Program Total</b>	<b>2,832</b>

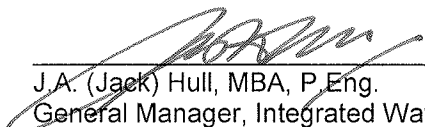
REBATE PROGRAM		UNITS
Rain Shut-off	To December 31, 2008	566
	January 1 to October 31, 2009	81
	November 1 to December 31, 2009	27
	<b>2009 Sub-total</b>	<b>108</b>
	2009 Target	40
	<b>Program Total</b>	<b>674</b>

*Note: Not all applications have been approved at this time.*

As a result of the public response to the cancellation of the rebate programs, the 2009 budget for these programs will be exceeded by approximately \$550,000. However, because of under expenditures elsewhere in the Demand Management budget, the budget overrun for Demand Management is expected to be about \$300,000. It is anticipated that, with under expenditures in other areas, the department's overall budget will not be significantly exceeded, if at all.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Water Supply Commission receive the staff report for information.



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