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News Release

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Free Online WaterSmart Landscape Design Workshops Offered

Yank thirsty grass and create a beautiful, sustainable water-efficient landscape

November 10, 2022 – As California enters a fourth straight year of drought, more residents are taking advantage of free, online webinars helping them conserve water and create beautiful landscapes at the same time. New three-hour workshops are scheduled through December, funded in part by the County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program.

Taught by local landscape professionals, upcoming webinars focus on specific landscape topics with a "do-it-yourself" approach. From plant choices and irrigation to design and maintenance, the webinars offer timely help on upgrading landscapes with low-water-use plants and other design touches.

"The workshops give people the skills and knowledge to create an outdoor space that is sustainable and water-efficient," said Joni German, a water resources specialist for the San Diego County Water Authority. "Residents can also take advantage of other free WaterSmart resources, including rebates for replacing grass and other outdoor and indoor incentives."

WaterSmart Resources

- Commercial and residential rebates
- Landscape makeover classes
- Indoor and outdoor incentives
- Turf replacement
- Free on-site irrigation system evaluations

For details, go to watersmartsd.org.

Registration is required for the online workshops.

Weekday workshops are held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday workshops from 9 a.m. to noon. Click <u>here</u> to register.

Outdoor watering accounts for more than half of a typical household's water use in California. The online classes can help residents create drought-tolerant, water-efficient landscapes with a design that maximizes enjoyment of the outdoor space.

Homeowners and businesses in San Diego County can receive between \$2 and \$4 per square foot to remove turf and replace it with low water-use plants suited to the hot and dry conditions that are common in our region. All customers are eligible for the base rebate of \$2 per square foot; some agencies offer additional funding, including the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego.

<u>Rebates</u>, classes and incentives available to all residents and businesses in San Diego County. Residents in unincorporated San Diego County, may be eligible for additional incentives through the <u>Waterscape Rebate Program</u>.

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The San Diego County Water Authority sustains a \$240 billion regional economy and the quality of life for 3.3 million residents through a multi-decade water supply diversification plan, major infrastructure investments and forward-thinking policies that promote fiscal and environmental responsibility. A public agency created in 1944, the Water Authority delivers wholesale water supplies to 24 retail water providers, including cities, special districts and a military base.

