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120 SAN DIEGO HOMES CONSERVE ONE MILLION GALLONS OF WATER *Councilmember Cate Saves San Diegans Thousands of Dollars on Their Water Bills*

San Diego, CA: More than half of residential water used is applied towards home landscapes, however, many landscapes are overwatered due to sprinkler controllers that are not programmed properly. Weather-Based Irrigation Controller (WBIC) systems use smart technology to optimize the use of water needed for irrigation.

Councilmember Cate launched a citywide pilot program in Spring of 2017 to give all San Diegans the opportunity to conserve water and save money on their water bills. \$12,000 from the City of San Diego's Community Projects, Program & Services Funding Program was allocated by Council District 6 to the City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department to purchase 120 Weather-Based Irrigation Controller systems for San Diegans.

"Regardless of drought status, conserving water is a way of life in San Diego. I am pleased to see my pilot program save a million gallons of water and alleviate water bills for 120 families," stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

Following the exhaustion of funds, Councilmember Cate has pledged to make this pilot program permanent, and will include the WBIC water conservation rebate in his 2020-2021 fiscal year budget priority memorandum. Furthermore, District 6 will be exploring the feasibility to have WBIC systems installed at all City of San Diego parks which will ensure the City is doing its part to conserve water and save taxpayer dollars.

"We are pleased this program successfully helped people conserve water," said Shauna Lorange, Director of the City's Public Utilities Department. "Innovative programs like this strengthen our overall resiliency by saving the critical resource of water."

For more information on Councilmember Cate's successful water conservation pilot program, visit <https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd6/wbic>.

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