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Date: May 31, 2017

COUNCILMEMBER CATE LAUNCHES MILLION GALLON CHALLENGE *City of San Diego to Distribute 120 FREE Weather-Based Irrigation Controller (WBIC) Systems*

San Diego, CA: More than half of residential water is applied to 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. Being weather-based and synchronized with either soil-sensors or wireless internet connectivity, a WBIC will know when to skip a watering if rain is in the forecast.

“Conserving water is a way of life in San Diego, regardless of drought status. The weather-based irrigation controller systems that are part of this pilot program could save one million gallons of water annually. A WBIC will save water and reduce the homeowner’s water bills, all in an effortless manner,” stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

As Vice Chair for the Committee on the Environment, Councilmember Cate has championed legislation for San Diego to invest in the development of its own locally controlled water supply, as well as making necessary infrastructure improvements. Additionally, Councilmember Cate has helped lead efforts on water rate reform that rewards ratepayers for conserving, while ensuring a stable stream of revenue to pay for capital projects and infrastructure.

\$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 (WBIC) Systems for San Diegans.

Applications for a free WBIC system* can be found at

https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/wbic_rebate_app_5-25-17_1.pdf

**Subject to approval, while supplies last. Participants who are unable to receive a free WBIC will have an opportunity to purchase WBIC at a discounted price, which may be eligible for a rebate through the Metropolitan Water District’s SoCal Water Smart rebate program.*

For more information on Councilmember Cate’s new water conservation pilot program, visit

<https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd6/wbic>.

[Website](#) | [NextDoor](#)

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