

MINUTES OF THE
WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE OF
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

June 8, 2021

A meeting of the Water Sustainability Committee of Vista Irrigation District was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at the offices of the District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vásquez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Sanchez and Vásquez

Committee members absent: None.

Staff present: Marlene Kelleher, Director of Administration, and Brent Reyes, Water Conservation Specialist.

Other attendees: None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

No public comments were presented on items not appearing on the agenda.

5. 2021 WATERSMART LANDSCAPE CONTEST

See application packages attached hereto.

Water Conservation Specialist Brent Reyes provided an overview of the WaterSmart Landscape Contest. He explained that the WaterSmart Landscape Contest is jointly coordinated and promoted, but individually judged by the participating agencies. Mr. Reyes commented that all of the entries this year were of high quality.

After discussion and careful consideration of all the applications, the Committee selected Lauren Grey as the winner of the 2021 WaterSmart Landscape Contest. As the winner, Ms. Grey will receive a plaque and a \$250 gift certificate. The Committee also decided to award two other applicants, Deborah Brandt and Dorothy Wagemester with honorable mentions. They will receive framed certificates from the District.

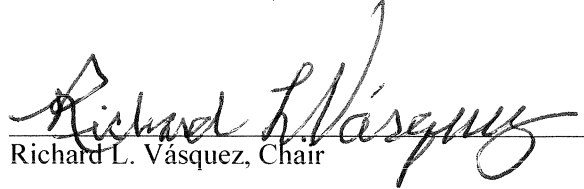
The Committee suggested that staff invite Ms. Grey to call in to an upcoming Board meeting scheduled for July 7, 2021 (at a set time) so the Board can congratulate her and thank her for her participation.

6. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS


Chair Vásquez commented that he was impressed with all the applications, particularly their use of colors in their landscaping. Director Sanchez encouraged staff to continue to look for tools to reach customers to promote the Contest.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 9:30 a.m. Chair Vásquez adjourned the meeting.


Richard L. Vásquez, Chair

ATTEST:



Lisa R. Soto, Secretary
Board of Directors
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**VISTA
IRRIGATION
DISTRICT**
**WATER SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Item: 5

Meeting Date: June 8, 2021
Prepared By: Brent Reyes
Reviewed By: Breona Paz
Approved By: Brett Hodgkiss

SUBJECT: 2021 WATERSMART LANDSCAPE CONTEST

RECOMMENDATION: Review submittals and select a winner of Vista Irrigation District's 2021 WaterSmart Landscape Contest.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION: At its July 15, 2020 meeting, the Board awarded a gift certificate and plaque to the winner of Vista Irrigation District's 2020 WaterSmart Landscape Contest. The Board also awarded a framed certificate to an honorable mention.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$300

SUMMARY: The District participated in 2021 WaterSmart Landscape Contest jointly coordinated and promoted, but individually judged, by the participating agencies. The District participated along with eleven other local agencies (Helix Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Otay Water District, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Dieguito Water District, Sweetwater Authority, Vallecitos Water District, California American Water, Rincon Del Diablo Water District, and the cities of Escondido and Oceanside) in this year's contest. The landscape contest winner receives a \$250 gift certificate from their participating agency.

DETAILED REPORT: This is the ninth straight year the District has participated in the landscape contest. Promotional materials were emailed to customers who participated in regional turf removal rebate programs and/or attended recent landscape training workshops hosted by the District. Additional landscape contest promotional efforts included: promotional articles in the City of Vista's Vista News Center email newsletter, social media posts by the San Diego County Water Authority, direct marketing to homes with attractive water-wise landscaping, bill message, and announcing the contest on the District's website. The District received three applications by the May 14, 2021 deadline.

Water Sustainability Committee members Vásquez and Sanchez are the judges for the contest. A \$250 gift certificate and a plaque will be presented to the landscape contest winner at a future Board meeting. The District's winner will have their landscape featured at www.landscapecontest.com as well as on the District's website.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Contest Judging Matrix/Criteria
- WaterSmart Landscape Contest Applications

JUDGING CRITERIA

Overall Attractiveness:

- Curb appeal
- Pleasing color, form, texture and contour
- Plants are well maintained
- Weeds kept to a minimum

Appropriate Plant Selection:

- Climate-appropriate plant palette
- Minimal or functional turf
- Functional landscape
- Plants meet needs of owners

Design:

- Landscape is able to thrive with less water
- Adequate plant coverage and permeable soils
- Takes advantage of site features like shade, micro-climates, or low-lying flood areas
- Landscape also meets needs of owners

Appropriate Maintenance:

- Mulch
- Weeds kept to a minimum
- Plants are neat, tidy and attractive

Efficient Methods of Irrigation:

- Uses appropriate irrigation equipment for plant material such as drip irrigation or efficient rotating spray nozzles
- Water consumption is appropriate to area
- Uses smart controllers or irrigation sensors
- Irrigation is supplemented with rainwater capture or other water

2021 WaterSmart Landscape Contest

Applicant Name	Attractiveness/ Appeal	Plant selection	Design	Maintenance	Irrigation/Water Use	Total
Brandt						
Grey						
Wagemester						

Please rate the landscape contest applicants on the basis of the following five (5) areas. Please rate from 1-5 (5 being high).

Overall attractiveness:

Curb appeal; pleasing color, form, texture, contour; plants are well maintained; weeds kept to a minimum

Appropriate plant selection:

Climate-appropriate plant palette; minimal or functional turf; functional landscape, meets needs of owners

Design:

Landscaping is able to thrive with less water, has adequate plant coverage, permeable soils, and takes advantage of site features like shade, micro-climates, or low-lying flood areas; landscaping also meets needs of owners

Appropriate maintenance:

Mulch; weeds kept to a minimum; plants neat, tidy and attractive

Efficient methods of irrigation:

Uses appropriate irrigation equipment for plant material, such as drip irrigation or efficient rotating spray nozzles

Owner's Name

Deborah Brandt

Landscape Installation Date

08/20/2019

How did you hear about the contest?

Email

Tell us why you decided to install a WaterSmart landscape (300 - 500 words):

Why did I install a WaterSmart landscape.....to transform a plain backyard into a magical place - full of intriguing plants/ succulents/flowers and cactus of all shapes and sizes, meandering pathways that draw you in and little surprises sprinkled throughout! And I saved a lot of water! Maintenance is very low.....I have more fun now, trimming and clipping a couple of times a week! I gave away the lawn mower! Flowers are blooming throughout the year! The transformation started out with about 1500 sf of small river rock that I obtained for free from a friend who needed to get rid of them because his small dogs were eating them! Those river rocks were contrasted against redwood chips. I kept adding to the metamorphosis with yard art, pots, antiques, a few flamingos, a rabbit or two and wind chimes throughout! Peaceful setting! The butterflies and humming-birds are numerous! Gentle slopes and mounds throughout the yard help to divert rain water into various areas. Living in a Mediterranean type climate like San Diego County requires some thoughtful consideration to water efficiency and conservation!

List the water-wise plants you used in the design:

Calandinia Grandiflora - succulents with pink flowers
Sticks on fire - turns brilliant orange in the full sun
Bird of Paradise
Ornamental grasses - Deer, Pony Tail Mexican Feather, Calamagrostis Foliosa
Crocsmias
Cactus - Pear Fruit, Coastal agave
Yucca - several varieties
Many succulents - Chalk Dudleya, Aeonium, Graptosedum, Aloes

Describe how you water your landscape (50 - 100 words):

All grass was removed and the entire area was covered with thick black felt to keep weed growth down. Drip irrigation was installed throughout the entire area. A mixture of redwood chips, small and medium sized river rock were used throughout the installation. Low water use plants and cactus were planted with native feature rocks scattered throughout - so many great colors and sizes of rocks! Drip system is high efficiency and is programmed to run in the early morning so as to minimize evaporation. Between 2 rainwater collection systems - over 350 gallons of rain is used to feed the thirsty plants!









Owner's Name

LAUREN GREY

Landscape Installation Date

03/10/2021

How did you hear about the contest?

RECEIVED EMAIL FROM BRENT AS I HAD ATTENDED A SEMINAR OF YOURS

Tell us why you decided to install a WaterSmart landscape (300 - 500 words):

When I came to California, I realized how attractive drought tolerant and succulent plants are. I included a photos of the property when I first bought it, and another of what may or must have been a front yard previously. My renovation started when I built the low retaining walls to halt the rush of top soil down the front slope. The walls were so attractive that, instead of installing a railing to eliminate any potential liability from the very steep and slanting front steps, I decided to block them with potted plants. Then I opted to plant a variety of Jades in the beds I had created with the walls, and secure them with Ghost plants and Wandering Jews, and Bingo - the Poppies appeared to glorify everything! Since the slope now looked so fabulous, I just had to plant an amazing succulent garden up on top! What fun, a beautiful garden and a sweet place to sit and contemplate it all!

List the water-wise plants you used in the design:

ECHEVARIAS spp., Aoneums species,, Beaucarnia, Crassula spp., Senecio spp., Kalanchoe spp., Pedilanthus, Cotylendon spp., Graptoveria x, Sedum, Sempervivums, Aloe spp., Haworthia spp., Pachyphytum spp., Tradescantia, sp., Graptopetalum sp., Portulacaria sp., Iris, Agave, Hesper Aloe, Furcraea, plus more.

Describe how you water your landscape (50 - 100 words):

On the bank I use regular shrub heads and the rest of my irrigation is devoted to drip and micro irrigation .









Owner's Name

Dorothy Wagemester

Landscape Installation Date

08/18/2016

How did you hear about the contest?

on water bill

Tell us why you decided to install a WaterSmart landscape (300 - 500 words):

We wanted to conserve water use on our property, yet create an inviting haven. We designed the landscape to include a hard-scape free-style path and selected plants in the red/yellow/blue palette. While spring is our favorite season, we have color all year long!

List the water-wise plants you used in the design:

cape plumbago, sea lavender, redbud tree, bougainvillea, kaleidoscope abelia, hibiscus, foxtail agave, fortnight lilies, agapanthus, and sundrops

Describe how you water your landscape (50 - 100 words):

Most of the landscape is on drip irrigation which we run twice weekly, three times weekly when temps are sustained 85-90 degrees or during santa anna winds.







