SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. V-B**

FROM: Steve Mack, General Manager

Meeting Date: December 1, 2011

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/ACTION RE TOILET DIRECT INSTALL PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive an update on doing a District-financed toilet direct install program for areas not served by the Russian River County Sanitation District in conjunction with the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA).

FISCAL IMPACT: unknown, but covered by grant from SCWA.

DISCUSSION:

At the November Board meeting, I informed the Board on my initial contact with SCWA staff regarding the possibility of doing a toilet direct install program. They were enthusiastic and suggested having a meeting on November 10 to talk about how to do this. We held the meeting and agreed the best approach was to have the District piggy-back onto SCWA's existing program – have everything go through SCWA and have the District reimburse SCWA.

One of the issues that was brought up at the last meeting was getting local plumbers more involved. SCWA staff is open to adding plumbers and has tried to include local plumbers; they just need to apply to get on their list. Issues that may reduce plumber interest include:

- Fee for the plumber may be considered too low. SCWA has set the price based on a county-wide average and some plumbers may want to be paid at a higher rate.
- Insurance requirements. Anyone working on residential plumbing representing a governmental agency is going to need adequate insurance. Every responsible plumber will have insurance, but it may not meet the SCWA standard. A plumber may not want to increase his/her insurance costs for the amount of work this program may bring them.

SCWA staff are consulting with their legal staff regarding the need for an agreement on this and any other issues. We anticipate a February or March start.