

Landscape Design Assistance Program

Designer Agreement Terms and Conditions

Program Goals

Valley Water's Landscape Conversion Rebate program provides incentives for customers to convert high-water using lawns to qualified low water, California-friendly and climate-appropriate landscapes. To achieve this goal, many customers require design assistance.

The purpose of the Landscape Design Assistance Program (Design Program) is to engage professional landscape designers and architects (Designer) to assist customers with lawn conversion designs for front lawns. To do this, Valley Water reimburses customers a flat fee of \$200 for a professional landscape consultation of up to two hours. This reimbursement will be paid once their lawn conversion project is completed and approved.

Designer Eligibility

To participate in the Design Program, professional landscape designers must demonstrate capabilities and experience in the field of sustainable landscape design, including extensive knowledge of climate-appropriate plants, mulch, soil health, permeable landscape materials, water-efficient irrigation systems, high-efficiency irrigation equipment including WaterSense-certified equipment, and lawn removal techniques. Designers must also demonstrate strong customer service skills and the ability to communicate effectively with program participants. Valley Water approved Designers will be listed on the Landscape Designer List, for customers to choose from.

Required Qualifications:

- Three (3) years of experience designing low water use residential landscapes
- AND
- At least one of the following*:
 - BA/BS/AA/Certificate in Landscape Architecture
 - AA/Certificate in Landscape Design
 - Membership in the American society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
 - Membership in the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD)
 - C-27 Landscaping Contractor License
 - Master Gardener Certification
 - ReScape Qualified Professional
 - Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Certification

*Other relevant qualifications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

References may be requested

Designer Responsibilities

- Designer understands the terms and conditions of Valley Water's Landscape Conversion Rebate program and Design Program and can convey program requirements to the customer.
- Designer understands Customer Eligibility
 - Customers may only participate in the Design Program one time per property
 - This program is available only for single-family or small multi-family property (1-4 units) within Santa Clara County
 - Design assistance is available for front yard conversions only
 - Customers must be a current applicant in Valley Water's Landscape Rebate Program with an active submitted Landscape Conversion application in order to be eligible
 - Customer's total size of the design area must not exceed 1,500 square feet.
- Designer agrees that design ideas and other advice provided to the customer are consistent with Valley Water's Landscape Conversion Rebate Program requirements.
- It is up to the Designer's discretion for providing design recommendations for areas outside of conversion area.
- The customer and the Designer may contract for additional services outside of the consultation.
- Designer must retain copies of consultation receipts/documentation and be able to provide them to Valley Water upon request.
- Designer will provide the customer with at least the following during the consultation:
 - General analysis of site conditions and evaluation of customer needs
 - Suggested plant list of low water use plants appropriate for the site
 - Basic layout ideas or a rough sketch of a landscape design. Including ideas for plant layout and other design elements like focal points, pathways, patios, etc.
 - General irrigation recommendations for the site
- Designer must participate in at least one informational meeting with Valley Water before being added to the Landscape Design Assistance Professionals List.

Design Program Process

- Step 1: During application submittal, the customer will choose a designer from the Landscape Designer List based on their needs and contact the designer directly to schedule a consultation.
- Step 2: The designer will respond to the customer within 5 business days, even if availability is limited or they are unable to perform the consultation.
- Step 3: The designer will schedule the design consultation with the customer for a date after the customer's pre-inspection has been completed.
- Step 4: The designer will provide an on-site design consultation of up to two hours for the customer as well as a receipt.

Fee for Design Consultation

- Designer will charge a fee to the customer not to exceed \$200 total for the Valley Water Landscape Design Assistance Program consultation of up to 2 hours.

- Customer will pay the Designer at the time of service and Designer will issue the customer a receipt.
- Valley Water will reimburse the customer upon successful completion of a Landscape Conversion Rebate project.
- If mutually agreed, the Designer and customer may contract for additional design services outside of this agreement. Any additional services rendered are not eligible for reimbursement by Valley Water.

Valley Water Actions

- Valley Water will list Designer's information including company name, contact information, link to website, and other information as needed on Valley Water's website or provide link to the same, for download by customer for the duration of program period.
- The designer fee will be reimbursed by Valley Water only if the customer successfully completes their lawn conversion project.
- Valley Water agrees to promote the Design Program to all eligible customers.