



PRESS RELEASE

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San Mateo Countywide Rain Barrel Distribution Event, January 29

SAN MATEO COUNTY, California — Flows To Bay, a program of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, will be holding a rain barrel distribution event on Saturday, January 29, 2022 to distribute an additional 396 barrels purchased by San Mateo County residents. Residents from 17 of the county's 20 cities and towns, including unincorporated areas, will be picking up their barrels between 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Lyngso Garden Materials located at 345 Shoreway Road, San Carlos, CA.

This program was initially launched as a pilot program in September 2021 as an effective water capture and conservation strategy against California's ongoing drought condition by making low-cost, high-quality rain barrels easily available to San Mateo County residents. The first rain barrel distribution event was held on November 13, 2021, where Flows To Bay distributed 330 purchased rain barrels. After this initial event, there were still nearly 200 residents on the waitlist for a rain barrel, prompting a relaunch of the program once inventory became available.

“This program aimed to educate residents about the water conservation and pollution prevention aspects of rain while providing an easy and affordable way to take action. The countywide rain barrel rebate, funded by the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County and agency partners, coupled with this bulk-order rain barrel program is just one way that we hope to underscore just how valuable water is as a resource. Clean water, a healthy community—it’s truly a team effort!” said Reid Bogert, C/CAG Stormwater Program Specialist.

The countywide rain barrel rebate program provides a minimum \$50 rebate per rain barrel. Residents can take advantage of the rain barrel rebate program with any qualifying rain barrel purchase and can get additional information at flowstobay.org/rainbarrel.

Beyond water conservation, capturing rainwater also improves the water quality of our local creeks, the San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean. Rainfall funnels into streets, collecting urban pollutants from all surfaces, including roofs. These pollutants then flow into storm drains and nearby waterways without treatment. Runoff is the number one source of pollution in our waterways nationwide. At 50 gallons of capacity a piece, the combined 726 rain barrels purchased from this program will be able to capture 36,300 gallons of water each time the barrels are filled. This also means 36,300 gallons of runoff that won’t enter our waterways, reducing the amount of pollutants that reach our waterways.

"It's very exciting and encouraging to see such enthusiasm and increased demand for this bulk discounted rain barrel program, as we approach our second event. C/CAG works on various issues that affect quality of life in San Mateo County, including addressing stormwater runoff and planning for climate change, among others. This rain barrel program attempts to address water resilience from a holistic standpoint, while bringing accessible and affordable options into our communities. This is exactly the type of impact we strive to make. We could not be happier with the results of this program and look forward to expanding it in years to come," stated Marie Chuang, Chair of the C/CAG Board of Directors and Councilmember, Town of Hillsborough.

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Flows To Bay is a program of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, a joint powers agency of the County and the 20 cities and towns in San Mateo County. In addition to funding green infrastructure projects, C/CAG supports its member agencies in achieving State-mandated stormwater pollution reduction requirements through countywide and regional collaboration on stormwater planning, water quality monitoring, community outreach and engagement, and public education.