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October 12, 2021

Board of Ventura County Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 17
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: **Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing and Ratifying the Submission of Two Applications for the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Arrearages Residential Debt Relief Program in the Amount of \$54,133 for Waterworks District No. 1 and \$19,926 for Waterworks District No. 17; District No. 1 (Moorpark) and No. 17 (Bell Canyon); Supervisorial District Nos. 2 and 4.**

Recommendation:

Adopt the attached resolution authorizing and ratifying the submission of two applications to the State Water Resources Control Board for consideration of residential water arrearages in the amount of \$54,133 for the Waterworks District No. 1 (Moorpark) and \$19,926 for Waterworks District No. 17 (Bell Canyon).

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

If the amounts are approved for funding, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will make payments directly to Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 17 (Districts) for the purpose of fully or partially forgiving their residential arrearages. These funds will then be credited to the specific residential accounts as listed in the applications see SWRCB frequently asked questions attached as Exhibit 1.

Project Background and Reason for Ratification

The Districts provide potable water to the communities of Moorpark and Bell Canyon. The SWRCB considers both Districts community water systems or public water systems



that meet the definition of Health and Safety Code section 116275, subdivision (i) and generally serve at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents, or regularly serve at least 25 yearlong residents of the areas served by the systems. These water systems primarily serve cities, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.

The SWRCB has received \$985 million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to address the residential customer water debt that accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic for the billing period from March 4, 2020 to June 15, 2021. SWRCB made this funding available to community water systems through the residential water relief program "California Water Arrearages Payment Program" (Program). The application period for the Program ended on September 10, 2021, which required staff to expedite two applications to SWRCB to be considered for relief. Due to the short Program application deadline, the Districts did not seek your Board's approval prior to submitting the applications on September 10, 2021.

Financial Summary

To be eligible, customer water bills had to be 60 days or more past due. Both Districts have arrearages that qualify for this Program, which were submitted as shown below:

| District | Estimate |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| No. 1 Moorpark | \$54,133 |
| No. 17 Bell Canyon | \$19,926 |
| Total | \$74,059 |

The SWRCB Program prioritizes drinking water residential arrearages and revenue loss. Residential customers are defined as those receiving water services to single family residences, multi-family residences, mobile homes, including, but not limited to, mobile homes in mobile home parks, or farmworker housing. If the Program still has funding available, it will then extend to wastewater residential and commercial arrearages and revenue loss by February 2022.

Discussion:

On August 19, 2021, staff attended a webinar regarding the Program. To meet the Program application deadline of September 10, 2021, staff electronically submitted SWRCB's required surveys and files detailing the residential arrearages accrued for the Districts' billing periods from March 4, 2020 to June 15, 2021.



Per the SWRCB, all eligible community water systems will be treated equally when determining the funding allocation for this Program. The allocation of funds will be based on the total available funding and will be proportional based on the percentage of the total statewide need for community water systems. SWRCB will make this determination based on the Program surveys. If the SWRCB approves the Districts' applications and provides funding to the Districts, the Districts will receive 1099-Gs.

The letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call me at (805) 378-3005.



Joseph C. Pope, P.E.
Director, Water and Sanitation

Attachments:

Resolution

Exhibit 1 – California State Water Resources Control Board FAQs: California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program

