

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
Christopher Cooper, Director

Roads & Transportation
Christopher Kurgan, Director

Water & Sanitation
Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection
Glenn Shephard, Director

February 28, 2023

Board of Ventura County Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 19
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: **Adoption of a Resolution Ratifying the Submission of an Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program Application to the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Regional Assistance in the Amount of \$32.5 M; and Authorization for the Public Works Agency's Director or Designee to Execute Grant-Related Documents; Supervisorial Districts Nos. 2, 3, and 4.**

Recommendations:

Adopt the attached resolution ratifying the Director of Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 19's submission of an Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program Application to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Division of Regional Assistance and authorizing the Director of Public Works Agency or designee to execute grant-related documents.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this Board item at this time. Upon approval by DWR, program revenue and associated program expenses representing a net minimum cost share of 25% will be included in the FY 2023-24 Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 19 budgets as appropriate.

Discussion:

In June 2022, the California legislature amended the Budget Act of 2021 (Stat. 2021, ch.240, § 80) to allocate an additional \$545 million to DWR to award grants for drought relief. These grants are intended to provide water to communities that face the loss or



contamination of their water supplies, address immediate impacts on human health and safety, and protect fish and wildlife resources. This program requires a minimum cost share of 25% of the total project costs.

The application period for the DWR grant period ended on January 31, 2023, requiring the expedited submission of an Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program application (Exhibit 1). Due to the impending deadline, the Director of Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 19 did not seek your Board's approval prior to submitting the application on January 31, 2023. Since DWR requires that an applicant's governing body adopt a resolution authorizing submission of the grant application, staff requests that your Board ratify the attached proposed resolution authorizing and ratifying submission of the grant application which would award the County of Ventura state funds upon approval by DWR.

A DWR grant would fund five projects in Ventura County Waterworks District (District) No. 1 including Well 15 Replacement, Well 20 Rehabilitation, Well 97 Replacement, Wells 95 & 98 Rehabilitation and Replacement, and Recycled Water Pipeline Extension to CEMEX concrete plant, with a combined cost of \$27.2 million and two projects in District No. 19; Wells 2 Replacement and Well 4 Rehabilitation, with a combined cost of \$5.3 million.

The Public Works Agency has identified water wells that require significant rehabilitation and upgrades for each District. In addition to the water wells that require replacement due to exceeding the intended design life, District No. 1 requires a new well to replace its failed Well 97, significant rehabilitation work for its damaged and plugged Well 98, and a replacement well for Well 95. A Stormwater Diversion Project would capture peak stormwater flows from Arroyo Las Posas and divert the water to existing percolation ponds at the Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility to recharge groundwater aquifers in the East Las Posas Groundwater Basin. An extension of a Recycled Water Pipeline to the local concrete plant would decrease reliance on imported water. District No. 19 requires a new well to replace Well 2. These projects would support each District in meeting their groundwater use allocation and avoid a potential loss of access to local groundwater. All of these projects would limit or reduce dependence on imported water during periods of drought by preserving the Districts' ability to continue pumping their full groundwater allocation of approximately 4,500 acre-feet of local water per year.

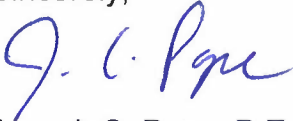


Due to construction contract award timelines, funding from this grant would not be disbursed until fiscal year 2023-24 and beyond.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel.

If you have any questions concerning this item, please contact me at (805) 378-3005.

Sincerely,



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

Attachments:

Resolution

Exhibit 1 – Vicinity Map WWD1-19

Exhibit 2 – Location Map WWD1

Exhibit 3 – Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program Application

