

**Agenda Item:** {{section.number}}A

September 3, 2024

**TO: THE ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS, AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Director Gracie Torres

Director Fauzia Rizvi

**FROM:** Tim Barr, Deputy General Manager

**ADOPT RESOLUTION 3328 AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT’S APPLICATION TO, AND APPROVING NEGOTIATION AND EXECUTION OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH, THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR A WATERSMART DROUGHT RESPONSE PROGRAM: DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 GRANT (FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. R25AS00013)**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests that the Engineering, Operations, and Water Resources Committee recommend the Board of Directors:

1. Adopt Resolution 3328 authorizing Western Municipal Water District’s application to, and approving negotiation and execution of a cooperative agreement with, the United States Bureau of Reclamation for a WaterSmart Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025 Grant (Funding Opportunity No. R25AS00013).

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Western Municipal Water District is applying to the United States Bureau of Reclamation’s (USBR) WaterSMART Drought Response Program to offset the cost of a project – the “Enhancing Reliability of a Sole Water Supply Source: Upsizing a Water Connection for a Small Community” project – which will upsize the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s (“Metropolitan”) connection providing water for the service area in an around Rainbow, California, to enhance the system and provide adequate fire flow for the community. The application can request up to \$750,000 in grant funding. Applications are due by October 7, 2024, and require a Board resolution for submittal.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Adoption of Resolution 3328 has no immediate budget impact. This project is included in the Board-approved Capital Improvement and Facilities Plan in Fiscal Year 2024/25, with a total project budget of \$1,000,000. The application can request up to \$750,000. The grant has a 50-percent local match requirement.

**DETAIL:**

The United States Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Drought Response Program provides a framework for Federal leadership and assistance to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations in support of the Department of the Interior's priorities. Through WaterSMART, the USBR leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply reliability through investments in existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts.

Western Municipal Water District (Western Water) is applying to the WaterSMART Drought Response Program to offset the cost of a project – the "Enhancing Reliability of a Sole Water Supply Source: Upsizing a Water Connection for a Small Community" project – which will upsize Metropolitan's connection providing water for the service area in and around Rainbow, California, to enhance the system and provide adequate fire flow for the community.

USBR is accepting applications until October 7, 2024, for its WaterSMART Drought Response Program. Applications can request up to \$750,000 with a 50-percent local cost-match requirement.

Reason for Action:

A Board-adopted resolution supporting Western Water's grant application is required.

Solution:

Adopt Resolution 3328.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:**

This action aligns with Western Water's Strategic Priorities of Financial Stewardship and Resource Management.

**PROPOSED DATE OF ACTION:**

If approved by the Committee, this item is scheduled for consideration by the full Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 18, 2024.

**LEGAL COUNSEL REVIEW:**

Legal Counsel has reviewed Resolution 3328.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tim Barr, Deputy General Manager

Attachment:

1. Resolution 3328