

Agenda Item: {{section.number}}B

May 18, 2022

TO: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Dennstedt, President
Gracie Torres, Vice President
Mike Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer
Fauzia Rizvi
Laura Roughton

FROM: Craig D. Miller, P.E., General Manager

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 3217 SUPPORTING A BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANT APPLICATION TO THE WATERSMART DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Consider adoption of Resolution 3217 supporting a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Project Grant Application to the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Western Municipal Water District is requesting \$5,000,000 in grant dollars from the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Project funding opportunity to offset the costs of a regional well treatment program. The title of the grant application is “Building Groundwater Reliability and Resiliency: Regional Well Installation and Water Quality Treatment Project.” Western Municipal Water District is partnering with Rubidoux Community Services District and Riverside Highland Water Company on this joint application. The grant application’s scope includes well treatment for Western Municipal Water District’s Murrieta wells, well treatment for a Riverside Highland Water Company well, and a new well and associated treatment for Rubidoux Community Services District. Eligible grant applications are due June 15, 2022. A Board resolution is a required component of the grant application.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Adoption of Resolution 3217 has no immediate budget impact. There is a 50 percent match requirement for this grant opportunity. If awarded, each agency will receive up to 50 percent of their project costs and each agency will be separately responsible for their cost share. As part of the grant application, each agency will submit a letter of commitment.

DETAIL:

The U.S. Department of the Interior's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program provides a framework for Federal leadership and assistance to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations. Through WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to support stakeholder efforts to stretch scarce water supplies and avoid conflicts over water. This Drought Resiliency Projects Notice of Funding Opportunity supports projects that have been prioritized through planning efforts led by the applicant. These projects are generally in the final design stage.

USBR will provide funding for projects that will build long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response actions. New wells and well treatment are eligible activities under this grant opportunity. The full application is due June 15, 2022. The WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Program funds up to \$5,000,000 of eligible costs, requiring a 50 percent cost match.

Through development of Western Municipal Water District's (Western) Drought Contingency Plan, several well treatment projects were identified by various agencies. Western is partnering with Rubidoux Community Services District and Riverside Highland Water Company on this joint application. The grant application's scope includes well treatment for Western's Murrieta wells, well treatment for a Riverside Highland Water Company well, and a new well and associated treatment for Rubidoux Community Services District. It is anticipated that a joint grant application will be more competitive in the federal environment and brings together a wholesale solution to the water quality challenges that the area experiences.

Reason for Action:

A resolution supporting Western's grant application is required.

Solution:

Adopt Resolution 3217 supporting an application for a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Grant Program.

Regular Board Meeting

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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:

This effort is consistent with Western's Strategic Priorities: Resource Management, Financial Stewardship and Superior Service.

LEGAL COUNSEL REVIEW:

Legal Counsel has reviewed Resolution 3217.

Respectfully submitted by:

Craig D. Miller, P.E., General Manager

Attachment:

1. WaterSMART Grant Resolution 3217