



**REVISED**

ITEM NO.  
6.3

## BOARD MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 10, 2021

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Courtney Mael, P.E.  
Chief Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding Under the 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program and Execute a Grant Agreement with the Department of Water Resources for the Saugus Wells 3 & 4 (Replacement Wells) Well Equipment and Site Improvement Project

---

### SUMMARY

Staff is preparing an application for the California Department of Water Resources 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program to fund a portion of the Saugus Wells 3 & 4 (Replacement Wells) Well Equipment and Site Improvement Project. The application requires that the Board adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to apply for the grant, execute a grant agreement, and submit any required documents, invoices, and reports required to obtain grant funding.

### DISCUSSION

The Department of Water Resources issued a notification of availability of funding under the 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program (Grant Program). The Grant Program provides funding to address immediate drought impacts on human health and safety. The Grant Program has no matching funds requirement but encourages applicants to use other fund sources to supplement grant funds. Therefore, the Agency is applying for \$2,500,000 in grant funding (30% of the total project cost).

The Replacement Wells, which are included in the Agency's Capital Improvement Plan, will provide partial mitigation of pumping capacity lost from wells that were taken out of service or downsized due to perchlorate contamination. At completion, the Replacement Wells will provide a pumping capacity of 2,000 gallons per minute each and will help ensure ongoing water supply reliability and resiliency.

On December 9, 2021, the Engineering and Operations Committee considered staff's recommendation to adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to apply for grant funding under the 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program and execute a grant agreement with the Department of Water Resources for the Saugus Wells 3 & 4 (Replacement Wells) Well Equipment and Site Improvement Project.

### CEQA DETERMINATION

The Resolution authorizing the General Manager to apply for grant funding and to execute a grant agreement does not constitute a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). The Board is not, at this time, committing to approve or undertake the Saugus Wells

Error! Unknown document property name.

3 & 4 (Replacement Wells) Well Equipment and Site Improvement Project. The Board reserves all necessary discretionary authority to approve, deny, or condition the Replacement Wells Equipment and Site Improvement Project, including the authority to adopt any mitigation measures or alternatives necessary to avoid or substantially lessen the environmental impacts of the Project. As noted in the Resolution proposed for adoption, any approval of the Replacement Wells Equipment and Site Improvement Project itself is expressly conditioned on CEQA review. As such approval of the Resolution does not constitute an approval of the Replacement Wells Project and so is not a decision subject to CEQA.

~~Preparation of the application is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3), the "common sense exemption," which provides that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Here, the Agency finds the preparation of an application for the CDWR 2021 Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program exempt from CEQA as it "can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question" as it is only the application for grant funding, and so will have no "significant effect on the environment."~~

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Funding for the Replacement Wells is included in the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Capital Improvement Budget. There are no matching funds required under this Grant Program.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Engineering and Operations Committee recommends that the Board of Directors (1) adopt the attached resolution authorizing the General Manager to apply for funding under the 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program, (2) execute a grant agreement and (3) submit any required documents, invoices, and reports required to obtain grant funding.

Attachment