

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
FROM: COLIN CLOSE, SENIOR WATER RESOURCES PLANNER
WATER
SUBJECT: FIRST AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING SONOMA-MARIN SAVING WATER PARTNERSHIP
AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department that the Board of Public Utilities, by motion, recommend the City Council approve the First Amended Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership provides a collaborative structure to maximize cost-effective water conservation by the signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding in Sonoma and Marin Counties and recognizes the regional commitment to reduce potable water demands to meet or exceed the state targets. Because the original Memorandum of Understanding expires in June 2018, the First Amended Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership (First Amended MOU) has been developed to cover the next 10-year period. This item relates to City Council Goal #3 - Provide leadership for environmental initiatives.

BACKGROUND

The Sonoma County Water Agency's (SCWA) Restructured Agreement for Water Supply (Restructured Agreement) with the City of Santa Rosa and the other Water Contractors requires Water Contractors to implement water conservation projects.

The Water Advisory Committee (WAC), as defined by the Restructured Agreement, advises the SCWA on proposals and serves as a collective spokesperson for the Water Contractors. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides technical recommendations to the WAC. The Water Conservation Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the TAC provides recommendations to the TAC on water conservation projects.

In the summer of 2005, staff from the Water Contractors, SCWA and Marin Municipal Water District began working on the development of a regional water conservation partnership to more cost effectively implement water conservation programs. After much discussion and many drafts, the TAC finalized a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership (Original MOU) and recommended it to the WAC. On March 3, 2008, the WAC unanimously recommended approval of the Original MOU and recommended that each Water Contractor take the Original MOU to their respective Boards and Councils for adoption.

April 17, 2008, the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) recommended, by resolution, that City Council approve the Original MOU and authorize the Mayor to sign it. On April 29, 2008, the Council approved the Original MOU and authorized the Mayor to sign it.

Because the Original MOU expires in June 2018, staff from the Water Contractors, SCWA and Marin Municipal Water District began working in recent months on the First Amended Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership (First Amended MOU) to cover the next 10-year period.

On March 5, 2018, the TAC considered the First Amended MOU and unanimously recommended it to the WAC for approval.

On April 2, 2018, the TAC considered minor corrections and clarifications to the First Amended MOU and unanimously recommended it to the WAC for approval.

On May 7, 2018, the WAC unanimously approved the First Amended MOU.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

April 17, 2008, the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) recommended, by resolution, that City Council approve the Original MOU and authorize the Mayor to sign it. On April 29, 2008, the Council approved the Original MOU and authorized the Mayor to sign it.

ANALYSIS

The First Amended MOU continues the regional water conservation partnership to maximize collaboration for water conservation for the signatories to the First Amended MOU and to identify cost-effective water conservation projects that the Water Conservation Subcommittee will consider for recommendation to the TAC.

The First Amended MOU will allow Santa Rosa to take advantage of appropriate cost effective regional programs as a part of the City's existing comprehensive water conservation program, which includes staffing, plumbing incentives, commercial/industrial upgrade incentives, irrigation efficiency incentives for peak reduction, public information and outreach, and overall administration.

The First Amended MOU continues the work of the Original MOU, including

implementing water conservation projects required in the Restructured Agreement. Differences of note from the Original MOU include:

- Replacing reference to the California Conservation Council (CUWCC) with its new name, the California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP), and removing references to CUWCC Best Management Practice implementation and reporting, as this is not a requirement to be a member in good standing of CalWEP.
- Streamlining the process for adding new signatories and clarifying the process for setting annual fees for new signatories.
- Basing Local Water Conservation Project Funding commitments on a prorated share of total potable water supplied (including SCWA water deliveries and potable water produced by each Party) rather than basing commitments only on total SCWA water deliveries.

FISCAL IMPACT

Per the First Amended MOU, the City of Santa Rosa must budget and expend a minimum of \$374,400 per year on its water conservation projects from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2028. This is a reduction from the Original MOU amount (\$557,325). The amount was calculated using the proposed formula in the First Amended MOU, which uses total water production rather than only SCWA deliveries to determine the annual amount to be budgeted and expended by each Water Contractor and Marin Municipal Water District.

The City's prorated share is based on the average water production for Santa Rosa in fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017 in comparison to the average total water production by the Water Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District in fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017. The annual amount to be budgeted and expended by individual agencies on local projects will be adjusted in fiscal years 2022 and 2025 using the same prorated basis to reflect the then current 3-year average annual water production.

Since the inception of the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership, the City has budgeted and expended more than the amount required by the Original MOU (and proposed in the First Amended MOU) to implement its effective water conservation program, which includes staffing, high-efficiency plumbing incentives, commercial/industrial upgrade incentives, landscape and irrigation efficiency incentives for peak reduction, public information and outreach, and overall administration.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – First Amended Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership – redline version
- Attachment 2 - First Amended Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership – changes accepted version

CONTACT

Colin Close, CClose@srcity.org, (707) 543-4524