

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
FROM: CLAIRE MYERS, SUSTAINABILITY REPRESENTATIVE
SANTA ROSA WATER
SUBJECT: PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department that the Board, by resolution, authorize the Water Department to apply for Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Office of Emergency Services for the Laguna Treatment Plant Flood Protection project, and commit to meeting the local match fund requirements for the grant should the project be selected.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On August 2, 2018, the Board approved a resolution authorizing Water Department staff to submit a grant application for hazard mitigation funding for the Laguna Treatment Plant Flood Protection project, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and authorized a commitment to meet the local match share of funding. Water Department staff now request authorization to submit a grant application for the same project for a different hazard mitigation program also administered by FEMA, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program. The PDM grant is substantially similar to the HMGP grant, but would pay for a higher percentage of total project costs. Staff also request authorization of a commitment to meet the local match fund requirements of the PDM grant, approximately \$5.9 million, should the project be selected by Cal OES and FEMA for grant funding.

BACKGROUND

The PDM Program, authorized by Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, is designed to assist States, U.S. Territories, Federally-recognized tribes, and local communities in implementing a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program. The goal is to reduce overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding in future disasters. Cal OES reviews PDM grant applications and forwards recipient recommendations to FEMA. FEMA has final approval for activity eligibility and funding. The PDM program provides up to \$10 million of federal funding per approved project and requires a local match of at least 25 percent of eligible project costs.

As the first step in determining which projects may be eligible for funding, the Water Department submitted a Notice of Interest (NOI) for the LTP Flood Protection Project to Cal OES for review in September 2018. Cal OES determined that the project is eligible to proceed with submitting an application for a competitive process to seek funding. Applications are due to Cal OES by December 4, 2018, and staff have begun compiling the application with the assistance of Ernst & Young.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

On June 21, 2018, Water Department staff provided a briefing to the Board of Public Utilities describing FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), a FEMA hazard assistance program similar to but different than its PDM grant program. During this presentation, staff presented information about the LTP Flood Protection Project. On August 2, 2018, the Board approved a resolution authorizing Water Department Staff to submit an HMGP grant application for the LTP Flood Protection Project, and authorized a commitment to meet the local match share of funding.

ANALYSIS

During and since the 2017 wildfires, the City of Santa Rosa has experienced the impacts of natural disasters at unprecedented scales. High disaster recovery costs, potential impacts to human life, and rising variability in hazard impacts and frequency are all motivators for the City of Santa Rosa to identify effective ways to reduce the City's vulnerability to future disasters now.

The City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) identifies the capabilities, resources, information, strategies for risk reduction, and critical facilities important for the City to reduce its vulnerability to natural disasters, including the LTP. The LTP facility serves approximately 230,000 residents in Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol, and unincorporated portions of Sonoma County, and is in the floodplain of the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

The LTP Flood Protection project would support implementation of the LHMP, and significantly reduce or eliminate vulnerabilities to critical water and wastewater infrastructure from future floods. The LTP and the Geysers and Reclamation pump stations have critical equipment such as electronic control panels and electric motors that would be subject to significant damage if inundated by high flood waters. A feasibility study for flood protection at the LTP completed in July 2016 recommended the construction of a berm/Flood Protection around the LTP site as the preferred flood protection approach to protect the facility from flood waters generated from a 100-year storm event. This alternative has several advantages over the other options considered, including: 1. protection will be provided for a 100-year storm event while also providing adequate freeboard to protect against the 500-year storm; 2. the project will be constructed on City property without the need for additional property acquisition; 3. the project will be constructed and maintained by the City without dependence on other agencies for maintenance activities; and 4. it is the lowest cost option in terms of capital costs and present worth value that provides full flood protection for the 100-year design storm.

The goals of this project are to effectively protect the Treatment Plant, reclamation and geysers pump stations from damage due to flood waters. The proposed concept design includes a system of berms, walls, and gates installed around the facilities. The direct beneficiaries of the project are Wastewater Treatment Plant facilities owned by the cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, and Sebastopol.

FISCAL IMPACT

PDM funds are provided on a 75/25 cost share basis, which is 75% federal for eligible expenses (up to \$10 million) and 25% local match funding. The cost for the project is estimated to be approximately \$15.9 million, of which \$10 million would come from federal grants, and \$5.9 million would come from City matching funds from the Subregional Capital Fund. The project is already in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), so the grant funding would offset planned funding.

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.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution authorizing submittal of applications for PDM funding for the LTP Flood Protection project and committing the department to the local match share of funding.

CONTACT

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