

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: JENNIFER BURKE, WATER DIRECTOR, SANTA ROSA WATER
SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SONOMA
COUNTY WATER AGENCY, SANTA ROSA WATER, NORTH
MARIN WATER DISTRICT, VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER
DISTRICT AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF DENMARK IN
SILICON VALLEY TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND
KNOWLEDGE SHARING RELATED TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE,
WATER MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water that the Board of Public Utilities (Board) approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Sonoma County Water Agency, Santa Rosa Water, North Marin Water District, Valley of the Moon Water District, and the Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley to Strengthen Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing Related to Climate Resilience, Water Management and Environmental Policy (MOU) and authorize the Board Chair to sign the MOU.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This proposed MOU between Sonoma County Water Agency, Santa Rosa Water, North Marin Water District, Valley of the Moon Water District, and the Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley will promote mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration to develop efficient water and wastewater management strategies that help mitigate the impacts of climate change. This motion will approve the proposed MOU and authorize the Board Chair to sign the MOU.

BACKGROUND

The Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley (Consulate) works to build bridges between Denmark and the United States to ensure a sustainable future. Among other things, the Consulate partners with Californian authorities on water and energy, promoting sustainable solutions to challenges in California. On June 27, 2023, Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), Santa Rosa Water, and the Consulate hosted a joint workshop entitled "It's All About Resilience: How to Optimize Your Distribution System" at Sonoma Water's Administrative Offices. All three agencies shared

information on various innovations and resiliency strategies that are being implemented at their respective agency. In addition, information was shared on the possibility of developing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Consulate, Sonoma Water, and any of Sonoma Water's contractors, of which Santa Rosa Water is one, that were interested in participating.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

1. Staff from Sonoma Water, Santa Rosa Water, North Marin Water District and Valley of the Moon Water District have currently expressed interest in joining the MOU. Should other Sonoma Water contractors wish to join in the future, the MOU allows for other participants to join as long as all parties to the MOU agree.
2. The MOU is aspirational and encompasses cooperation and knowledge sharing on climate resilience, water and wastewater management, and environmental policy.
3. The MOU has no costs associated with it.
4. The term of the MOU is for three years from the final date of execution. Any signatory to the MOU can discontinue participation at any time by giving written notice to the other signatories to the MOU.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the Water Fund or the Wastewater Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) and 15378 in that there is no possibility that the implementation of this action may have significant effects on the environment, and no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Memorandum of Understanding Between Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), City of Santa Rosa Water Department (Santa Rosa Water), North Marin Water District, and Valley of the Moon Water District, California, United States, and the Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley to Strengthen Cooperation & Knowledge Sharing Related to Climate Resilience, Water Management, and Environmental Policy

PRESENTER

Jennifer Burke, Water Director