



## AGENDA STAFF REPORT

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**Agenda Number: F**  
**File ID: 0121.323**

**Section Name: CONSENT CALENDAR**  
**Project ID: SW2104**

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**MEETING DATE:** May 28, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the General Manager to execute an Expense-Sharing Agreement for the relocation of a fiber optic line with Sprint Communications Company L.P. (SCCLP) as part of the Thousand Palms Channel Improvement Project from Sun City Shadow Hills Channel to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Project.

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM:** ENGINEERING/IRRIGATION/STORMWATER, CARRIE OLIPHANT

**GENERAL MANAGER  
RECOMMENDATION:**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the General Manager to execute an Expense-Sharing Agreement (Agreement) for the relocation of a fiber optic line with Sprint Communications Company L.P. (SCCLP) as part of the Thousand Palms Channel Improvement Project from Sun City Shadow Hills Channel to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (Project).

The Agreement provides for the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) to pay for 40% of the relocation expenses with a not-to-exceed total amount of \$200,000.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

The total cost of the Thousand Palms Channel Improvement Project from Sun City Shadow Hills Channel to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Project (Project) is \$20,063,000. The Project (SW2104) is included in the proposed Stormwater Fund Fiscal 2025-26 Capital Improvement Budget in the amount of \$6,000,000. Therefore, a budget amendment is not necessary to pay for the expense associated with the subject Agreement.

**PROCUREMENT METHOD:**

☒ N/A

If other, please explain: .

**BACKGROUND**

The Thousand Palms Channel Improvement Project from Sun City Shadow Hills to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (Project) is the final link for conveying regional floods that originate in the Thousand Palms

and Morongo Watersheds (north of Interstate 10) to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC). The Thousand Palms Channel is an approximately 5,700 foot long earthen channel, constructed in 1967. The channel begins upstream at the easterly boundary of the existing Sun City Shadow Hills storm channels where it travels over a siphon for the Coachella Canal, crosses Madison Street, Avenue 42, then under Interstate 10 where it ultimately confluences with the CVSC just north of Indio Blvd. In anticipation of the completion of the North Indio Flood Control Project (currently under project closeout), staff initiated the development of final design plans and specifications of the Project.

The Project will include improvements to the Channel to allow for the capacity to convey the 100-year storm flow rate of 16,836 cubic feet per second (cfs). The channel is in a levee condition (landward side is lower than the channel water surface elevation) and is at risk from potential failure due to scour. The Project will maintain an earthen channel invert with concrete side slope protection. As part of the Project, reinforced concrete box culverts will be installed within the crossing of Avenue 42. The Project will also certify the levee portion of the channel under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

SCCLP has a fiber optic communications line within Avenue 42 that is in direct conflict with the Project, and that will need to be relocated. CVWD has requested that SCCLP relocate its facilities at its costs due to CVWD's senior right of way rights. However, SCCLP disputes which party bears the financial responsibility for the relocation.

The Expense-Sharing Agreement resolves the dispute and allows for the Project to proceed with its critical schedule. The Agreement provides for CVWD to pay for 40% of the relocation costs up to an amount not to exceed \$200,000. The Agreement also commits SCCLP to cover 60% of the relocation costs at a minimum and any additional costs above CVWD's \$200,000 maximum commitment. The Agreement will serve the following purposes:

- Avoids Project delays which could arise from further disputing financial responsibility.
- Avoids the expenditure of public funds to further dispute financial responsibility when said expenditure by CVWD would very likely exceed the amount CVWD will be contributing under the proposed Agreement.

**PRIOR BOARD ACTION:**

- On September 20, 2020 – Task Order No. 20-5 to with Albert A. Webb Associates for the Preliminary Design Report.
- On January 25, 2022 – Professional Services Agreement with Q3 Consulting in for Engineering Design Services.
- On November 12, 2024 – Task Order No. 4 to the Professional Services Agreement with Q3 for additional Engineering Design Services.

**DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S)/OBJECTIVES(S):**

N/A

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:**

This is not a project as defined by CEQA; therefore, approval does not require any CEQA action.

**PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIRED**

N/A

**LEGAL REVIEW**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

Att 1 - Project Area Exhibit

Att 2 - Expense-Sharing Agreement - CVWD-SCCLP