



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

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Agenda Number: D
File ID: 0645.77

Section Name: Service & Communication
Project ID:

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Authorize General Manager to sign Memorandum of Understanding by and among Colorado River Basin Municipal and Public Water Providers

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: SERVICE-ADMINISTRATION, SCOTT BURRITT

GENERAL MANAGER
RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding by and among Colorado River Basin Municipal and Public Water Providers to demonstrate the District's commitment to reduce water consumption and increase reuse and recycling within the District's service area.

BUDGET IMPACT:

N/A

PROCUREMENT METHOD:

☒ N/A

BACKGROUND

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is seeking municipal water providers to join the effort to commit to reduce water consumption and increase reuse and recycling within provider's service areas. Over the past two decades, the Colorado River basin has experienced the worst drought in the last 1,200 years, which has reduced storage levels in Lakes Powell and Mead to unprecedented and critical levels. Water users throughout the basin must reduce demands to bring supply and use back into balance.

In August 2022, several Colorado River water providers entered into a Memorandum of Understanding by and among Colorado River Basin Municipal and Public Water Providers (herein "MOU"). The agreement details commitments to reduce nonfunctional turf acreage, increase water reuse and recycling and expand conservation and efficiency programs to accelerate conservation savings in the Colorado River Basin.

Through the MOU, CVWD will specifically commit to the following actions:

1. Continue and expand our programs to increase indoor and outdoor water use efficiency.
2. Introduce a program to reduce the quantity of non-functional turf grass by 30% through replacement with drought- and climate-resilient landscaping, while maintaining vital urban landscapes and tree canopies that benefit our communities, wildlife, and the environment.
3. Increase water reuse and recycling programs where feasible, contingent on the dependability and security of our existing Colorado River supplies essential to support these efforts.
4. Implement best practices and sharing lessons learned to help one another accelerate our efficiency strategies. Water providers will select from the following approaches those tactics best tailored to preserve thriving communities, environmental health, and strong economies:
 - a. Transforming our outdoor landscapes and urban environments in a manner that improves climate resilience and promotes an ethic of wise water use through mandatory watering schedules and compliance enforcement, incentivized turf removal, and limitations on new turf;
 - b. Increasing efficiency of indoor fixtures and appliances;
 - c. Employing best practices for industrial processes and commercial operations, including minimization of evaporative cooling;
 - d. Adopting conservation-oriented rate structures to incentivize efficiency;
 - e. Accelerating water loss control by prioritizing supply considerations in asset management programs and exploring water loss control regulations to minimize water loss;
 - f. Improving coordination between land use and water planning efforts through improved processes, best management practices, and additional regulations, where appropriate; and,
 - g. Employing other strategies tailored to the unique needs of each community.

Collaborate with other water users in the Colorado River basin to bring the supply and use of the river into balance. A robust agricultural economy, healthy watersheds, opportunities to recreate, and vibrant communities are all vital to our western way of life. No one sector, nor one state, can achieve sufficient use reductions independently. For the sake of current and future generations, we all must work together to achieve a balance of supply and use and thereby preserve a functioning and healthy river system.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION:

CVWD's Board of Directors have approved a number of actions to increase conservation and water use efficiency within the District's service area. CVWD's past actions are consistent with the MOU, such as adopting a tiered rate billing structure, implementing a number of various conservation rebates, expanding rebate offerings, and hosting numerous community events to teach best practices for efficient internal and external water use.

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

Approval of this action aligns with the CVWD core value of water supply sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

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

LEGAL REVIEW

Best Best & Krieger

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 – Final MOU – Colorado River Basin Municipal and Public Water Provider