



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
November 2, 2021

TOPIC: Grant Application for Well 38 Water Treatment Project

AGENDA TITLE

Adopt a Resolution Authorizing a Grant Application Submission for the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Drought Response Program for the Well 38 Water Treatment Project

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Executive Director of the Public Works Agency to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow Drought Response Program Grant for the Well 38 Water Treatment Project, in an amount of up to \$2,000,000.

DISCUSSION

The majority of the City of Santa Ana's potable water comes from the Orange County Groundwater Basin (OC Basin) and is pumped through 20 existing City wells. Due to the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in routine well monitoring, several wells in the OC Basin have been taken offline, including the City's Well 38. Given the limited water supplies in the region and recent recurring drought conditions, removing wells from the City's potable water distribution system will reduce its reliability. This action will also increase the burden on other City water production facilities and the reliance on imported water sources.

The City is currently in the preliminary design phase of a PFAS treatment facility for Well 38 that will effectively remove PFAS contamination from the water before it is introduced into the distribution system. The United States Department of the Interior offers financial assistance in the form of grant funding through its Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Drought Response Program for this type of project. The program provides two levels of funding and up to a maximum of \$2,000,000 in grant funding, but not to exceed 50 percent of the total project cost. If the grant application (Exhibit 1) is successful, the grant funding would offset up to \$2,000,000 of the estimated \$5,300,000 total project cost. The resolution (Exhibit 2) authorizes staff to submit the application.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no environmental impact associated with this action.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. Staff will return to Council with a request for approval of further actions and will indicate the fiscal impact of any such awards and associated expenditures at that time.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Grant Application (https://www.santa-ana.org/sites/default/files/pw/documents/Grant_Application_Exh_1_Well_38_Water_Treatment_Project_October_5_2021.pdf)
2. Resolution Authorizing Grant Application for Well 38 Water Treatment Project

Submitted By: Nabil Saba, Executive Dir Public Works

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager