



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
February 1, 2022

TOPIC: Washington Avenue Well Project

AGENDA TITLE

Public Hearing - Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Washington Avenue Well Project (Non-General Fund)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution approving an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Washington Avenue Well Project.
2. Approve the Washington Avenue Well Project.

DISCUSSION

The City is currently in the design stages of the Washington Avenue Well Project, which will be located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Washington Avenue and Penn Way (Exhibit 1). The project involves construction of a new groundwater well, including piping and electrical equipment, a well building, and a chemical storage building. The project creates an additional local water supply, which improves the City's long-term resilience to drought. It also closes the projected gap between future demand and available supply by adding over 4,000 acre-feet per year to the City's pumping capacity.

The majority of the City's potable water comes from an underground basin and is pumped through 21 existing wells. Given the limited water supplies in the region and recent recurring droughts, constructing a new well in the City would improve overall water system reliability and reduce the burden on other water production facilities. This promotes less reliance on imported water, which, in turn, reduces water costs. The project will also address low-pressure deficiencies, improve reliability, and increase flexibility within the City's water system, as identified in the City's 2017 Water Master Plan.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared for this project (Exhibit 2), along with a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) (Exhibit 3), which must be approved and adopted by resolution of the City Council (Exhibit 4). Approval of this

project, along with the adoption of the resolution approving the IS/MND and MMRP, will complete the environmental phase of the Washington Avenue Well Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

In accordance with CEQA, the recommended action has been reviewed through an IS/MND. Sections 15070 through 15075 of the State CEQA Guidelines (Article 6) guide the process for the preparation of a mitigated negative declaration. The MND prepared for this project contains a project description, project location map, and findings that the project, with mitigation, will not have a significant effect on the environment.

The City provided public notice of the public comment period, which began on November 9, 2021, and ended on December 8, 2021. The IS/MND was also distributed to all interested or required parties listed on the City's distribution list. No public comments were received.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration is on file with the office of the Clerk of the Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Location Map
2. Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be viewed at https://www.santa-ana.org/sites/default/files/pw/documents/Santa-Ana_Wash-Ave-Wells_Admin-Final_IS-MND_2022-01-10_Public%20Version.pdf
3. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
4. Resolution

Submitted By:

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Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager