



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

TOPIC: Resolution for Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Projects

AGENDA TITLE

Adopt a Resolution adopting the One Water One Watershed Plan Update 2018 and authorizing the submittal of grant applications for the New Washington Well Project and the Santa Ana Zoo Stormwater Capture and Diversion Project (Non-General Fund)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt a Resolution adopting the One Water One Watershed Plan Update 2018, the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan for the Santa Ana River Watershed, and authorizing the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority to submit Proposition 1 IRWM grant applications on behalf of the City of Santa Ana for the New Washington Well Project and the Santa Ana Zoo Stormwater Capture and Diversion Project.

DISCUSSION

In November 2014, California voters passed Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. Proposition 1 authorized \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds to fund, in part, water resource projects identified as regional priorities through local IRWM Plans. City staff submitted two successful applications for funding from Round 2 of the Proposition 1 IRWM funding program.

Washington Well Project

The majority of the City of Santa Ana's potable water comes from the Orange County Groundwater Basin (OC Basin) and is pumped through 21 existing City wells. Due to a variety of issues, including the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in routine well monitoring, several wells in the City have been taken offline. 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. Rehabilitating existing wells or constructing new wells will reduce the burden on other City water production facilities and the reliance on imported water sources.

The Water Resources Division is currently finalizing the design of the Washington Well Project, which will construct a new well that will address low-pressure deficiencies in the

distribution system, and will add approximately 4,000 acre-feet per year to the City's pumping capacity. The current Proposition 1, Round 2 IRWM grant funding will provide up to \$3,394,743 in grant funds for the construction of the well. The City has already received grant funding in the amount of \$100,000 from the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority for the design of the project, and \$750,000 from the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation for construction. The total estimated cost of the project is \$7,387,555.

Santa Ana Zoo Stormwater Capture and Diversion Project

The Santa Ana Zoo Stormwater Capture and Diversion (SAZSCAD) Project features the construction of subsurface stormwater infiltration systems at the Santa Ana Zoo. The project is designed to capture and infiltrate approximately 67 acre-feet per year (AFY) of stormwater and dry-weather runoff to help improve water quality in the Newport Bay watershed, increase local water supplies, and reduce flooding downstream. The project will also include a new urban green space, bioswales, pervious pavement, seating, drought tolerant landscaping and shade trees, and interpretive signage promoting watershed and water quality education to Zoo visitors. The Public Works Agency has collaborated with Santa Ana Zoo staff on the project and Caltrans is contributing \$1,250,000 as a project partner. The project has received letters of support from the Regional Water Board, Orange County Water District, and a local environmental non-profit organization.

The Project is currently in the preliminary design phase. The final design phase will start after award of the Grant Agreement and amendment to the City's Capital Improvement Program. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$5,000,000.

Adoption of the resolution (Exhibit 1) will adopt the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Plan Update 2018, which is required as a condition of all local project sponsors to receive grant funding.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no environmental impact associated with this action.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff will return to Council with a request for approval of further actions, such as appropriation adjustments and CIP amendments, and will indicate the fiscal impact of any such actions and associated expenditures at that time. The New Washington Well Project does not require a local match. The SAZSCAD Project requires a local match of 50% for the overall project portfolio, which will be finalized during project design. Sufficient funds will be budgeted for the required local match using a combination of state or local grants, and City funds.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Resolution Adopting OWOW Plan Update 2018

Adopt Resolution for Prop 1 IRWM Grants
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Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager