



**City of Santa Ana**  
**20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701**  
**Staff Report**  
**March 7, 2023**

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**TOPIC:** Grant Application for Water Well Projects

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**AGENDA TITLE**

Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Grant Application Submission for California Department of Water Resources 2022 Urban and Community Drought Relief Grant Program (Non-General Fund)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director of the Public Works Agency to submit a grant application to the California Department of Water Resources 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program for the Well 38 Wellhead Treatment Project and West Station Well Project land acquisition in an amount up to \$4,000,000.

**DISCUSSION**

The Public Works Agency's Water Resources Division oversees and maintains the daily operations of the City's water distribution system. The water system is comprised of approximately 480 miles of water main, 21 groundwater wells, seven pump stations, ten reservoirs with a storage capacity of 49 million gallons, four pressure regulating vaults (PRVs), and seven connection points with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

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 Well 38 Wellhead Treatment Project will construct an ion exchange water treatment facility to remove PFAS chemicals from the water and allow the well to be returned to the City's distribution system. Well 38 is located in the City's upper pressure zone, which has become increasingly reliant on imported water due to the presence of PFAS contamination found in the wells primarily serving this area of the City.

The West Station Well Project land acquisition site is adjacent to the City's existing West Station site. The groundwater wells at West Station are amongst the oldest in the system and operated beyond their expected lifespan of 50 years. The Water Resources Division plans to add new groundwater wells adjacent to the aging infrastructure and maintain the same level of service to the community, while also meeting regulations regarding siting of new wells relative to existing wells.

The California Department of Water Resources offers financial assistance in the form of grant funding through its Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program for these type of projects. The program provides funding for projects that provide water to communities that face the loss or contamination of their water supplies, address immediate impacts on human health and safety, and protect fish and wildlife resources. If the grant application is successful, the grant funding would offset up to \$4,000,000 of the estimated \$12,662,000 total project costs. The Resolution authorizes staff to submit the respective application (Exhibit 1).

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. Staff will return to the City 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. Resolution

Submitted By: Nabil Saba, P. E., Executive Director, Public Works Agency

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager