



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: August 1, 2023

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM: Steven Valle, Administrative Analyst
s_valle@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6597(23) Authorizing Receipt of Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program Subgrant Award through the Santa Barbara County Water Agency from the California Department of Water Resources to Fund Water Leak Detection and Repair Programs and Services

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6597(23) (Attachment 1), which will authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute all documents necessary to receive and utilize a subgrant award of \$449,993 from the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) through the Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program (IRWM-IGP) to fund supply-side water leak detection and repair activities, and to supplement the existing demand-side Water Leak Detection and Repair Rebate Program offered by the City's Utility Department.

Background:

In 2002, the Regional Water Management Planning Act (SB 1672) was passed by the California State Legislature, creating the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM), a statewide collaborative to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale to increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. That approach attained to deliver higher value for investments than prior approaches by considering all interests, providing multiple benefits, and working across jurisdictional boundaries. Examples of multiple benefits include improved water quality, better flood management, restored and enhanced ecosystems, and more reliable surface and groundwater supplies. IRWM crosses jurisdictional, watershed and political boundaries, involves multiple stakeholders, and attempts to address the issues and differing perspectives of all entities involved through mutually beneficial solutions.

Since SB 1672 was passed, various bond acts approved by California voters have provided over \$1.5 billion in State funding to support and advance integrated, multi-benefit regional projects. Cities, counties, water districts, community and environmental groups,

August 1, 2023

Resolution No. 6597(23) Authorizing Receipt and Use of IRWMP Grant Funds

Page 2 of 5

Tribes, and others across the State have worked collaboratively to organize and establish 48 regional water management groups, covering over 87% of the State's area and 99% of its population.

On September 19, 2006, the City Council approved the City's participation in a Memorandum of Understanding with 28 local agencies (cities, special districts, water companies, and joint powers entities) to prepare an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the Santa Barbara County-wide area with funds contributed by all signatories. The County of Santa Barbara (County) adopted its IRWMP in 2007 and completed updates of the plan in 2013 and 2019. The City adopted the County's IRWMP in 2007, by action of City Council, and has continued to participate as a Cooperating Partner on the actions described in the County's IRWMP, managed by the SBCWA, since.

Over the years, numerous IRWM planning and implementation grants, administered by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), have helped regional water management groups develop, adopt, update, and implement IRWM plans to address the unique water-related needs and conditions of regions throughout the state. IRWM grants awarded to date have resulted in implementation of 800+ IRWM projects providing a wide range of benefits.

In 2010, the City was awarded \$171,428 as a subgrant applicant of SBCWA's application for the Proposition 84 Round 1 IRWM-IGP solicitation. That award was used to fund the Lompoc Valley Regional Leak Detection Project, a collaborative effort between the City of Lompoc, the Mission Hills Community Service District, and the Vandenberg Village Community Service District to administer a leak detection audit throughout the water distribution systems of the three utilities, develop a five-year plan for the repair and/or replacement of leaky water services and main lines identified through the audit, and implement the plan.

Discussion:

In May 2022, DWR issued the Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM-IGP guidelines and solicitation, making approximately \$201 million available to regional water management groups and initiating the solicitation process. The SBCWA coordinated with County IRWM Cooperating Partners, including the City, to submit a grant application for that solicitation. Cooperating Partners submitted projects to the SBCWA and mutually voted to request funding for four projects from the Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM-IGP solicitation. The four projects included in the grant application are:

1. Leak Detection and Repair – City of Lompoc,
2. Pioneer Lift Station Rehabilitation – City of Guadalupe,
3. Carpinteria Advanced Purification Project – Carpinteria Valley Water District, and

August 1, 2023

Resolution No. 6597(23) Authorizing Receipt and Use of IRWMP Grant Funds

Page 3 of 5

4. Lake Cachuma Emergency Pumping Facility – Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board.

The SBCWA received notice in November of 2022 that all four projects were recommended for funding by the DWR. In total, the Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM-IGP awarded \$200.83 million for implementation projects across 39 regions throughout the state. Attachments 2 and 3 list the final funding recommendations by region for the Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM-IGP solicitation, and Attachment 4 lists a detailed final funding recommendation for the County's IRWM region. The City requested, and was awarded, \$449,993 to fund supply-side water leak detection and repair activities and supplement the existing demand-side Water Leak Detection and Repair Rebate Program that the Utility Department provides for its water utility customers.

Supply-Side Leak Detection

The City's Water Department maintains 135 miles of water mains in its underground water distribution system. Funding from the Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM-IGP will be utilized towards leak detection and repair measures to address and prevent water leaks throughout the City's water distribution system, such as leak detection and repair equipment, water pressure monitoring equipment, and water line auditing services. Supply-side efforts will reduce wasteful water loss, enhance water supply longevity, and improve the City's response and repair times for supply-side water leaks. That will also help the City to reduce the frequency and severity of distribution line water leaks by identifying and addressing aged water distribution lines requiring maintenance or replacement.

Water Leak Detection and Repair Program

The project will also supplement the City's existing Water Leak Detection and Repair Program to better assist water utility customers and property owners in the City's water service territory. Currently, staff regularly identifies water leaks on the demand-side (behind the meter) through a weekly water meter auditing process. Water utility customers whose meters are identified through that weekly process are contacted promptly by phone, email, mail, or postcard, as appropriate. Water utility customers who repair water leaks are eligible for a rebate of up to \$800, including up to \$700 for leak detection and repair labor and material costs and up to \$100 for water charges associated with the leak. All residential rebates are credited to utility accounts. The Water Leak Detection and Repair Program supports Lompoc residents in their efforts to reduce wasteful water use and has helped alleviate financial hardships that residents may experience when an unexpected water leak occurs.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct impact to the City's General Fund due to the adoption of Resolution No. 6597(23) authorizing receipt and use of Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM-IGP subgrant award from the SBCWA to fund supply-side water leak detection and repair activities, and

August 1, 2023

Resolution No. 6597(23) Authorizing Receipt and Use of IRWMP Grant Funds

Page 4 of 5

supplement the existing demand-side Water Leak Detection and Repair Rebate Program offered by City's Utility Department. To comply with the grant requirements, the City will need to provide a cost share of \$45,481 towards project activities, bringing the total project budget to \$495,474. Staff recommends utilizing funds budgeted in the City's Water Retrofit Fund to meet the cost share requirement.

The City will receive the IRWMP-IGP grant funding on a reimbursement basis and will be required to invoice the SWBCA for eligible activities completed in accordance with the terms of the Subgrant Agreement (Attachment 5). To account for eligible project costs to be incurred, supplemental appropriations are recommended for the full estimated project amount of \$495,474 to Account 717WRF-573055. Funding for the Project is recommended to be from the following accounts:

Resources – Accounts	Amount
717RWR-455620 – IRWM Grant	\$ 449,993.00
717WRF-573010 – Water Retrofit – ERT Upgrades	\$ 45,481.00
Total Resources	\$ 495,474.00

Conclusion:

Adoption of Resolution No. 6597(23) will authorize the receipt and utilization of a subgrant award of \$449,993 from the SBCWA through the Round 2 IRWM-IGP to fund supply-side water leak detection and repair activities, and will supplement the existing demand-side Water Leak Detection and Repair Rebate Program offered by City's Utility Department.

Ultimately, funding from the Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM-IGP will assist the City to conserve water in the groundwater basin and augment its operations to mitigate water leaks throughout the City's water service territory. The project is estimated to assist the City in saving a minimum of 22,750,000 gallons, or 70 acre-feet, of potable water per year.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Valle, Administrative Analyst

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:

Dean Albro, City Manager

August 1, 2023

Resolution No. 6597(23) Authorizing Receipt and Use of IRWMP Grant Funds

Page 5 of 5

- Attachments:
- 1) Resolution No. 6597(23)
 - 2) IRWM Cycle 1 Regional Summary Final Funding Recommendations
 - 3) IRWM Cycle 2 Regional Summary Final Funding Recommendations
 - 4) IRWM Detailed Final Funding Recommendations
 - 5) IRWM Implementation Grant Subgrant Agreement