



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Utility Services / Land Use / Energy Development Committee

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**TO: UTILITY SERVICES/LAND USE/ENERGY  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2015**

**FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**WARD: 4**

**SUBJECT: WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S REQUEST TO DIVERT  
WASTEWATER FLOW FROM THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE'S ORANGECREST  
SERVICE AREA - DIRECT SUBMITTAL**

**ISSUE:**

The issue for Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee is to consider a request from the Western Municipal Water District to divert wastewater flow from the City of Riverside's Orangecrest service area for recycled water production and distribution.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee consider and approve in concept, a request from the Western Municipal Water District.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Riverside (City) has an established cooperative working relationship with the Western Municipal Water District (Western) to implement local water conservation and supply strategies within the upper Santa Ana Watershed. Western has approached the City with a request to divert approximately 0.5 million gallons per day of wastewater from the City's Orangecrest service area to its Western Water Recycling Facility (WWRF) located near the intersection of Harley Knox Road and I-215. Western's main objective is to utilize available WWRF capacity to increase the production and distribution of recycled water. This objective increases the utilization of a local water resource and decreases import of water from northern California. It is a dependable source of water for use to meet non-potable demands.

Under Western's proposal, approximately 182.5 million gallons per year of additional recycled water supply would be distributed to local customers. To make the sewer system connection for wastewater diversion, Western reported they will need to invest about \$360,000 in sewer infrastructure and pumping improvements. Currently, Western utilizes all of the recycled water it produces at its WWRF and has to buy untreated imported water from Metropolitan Water District to meet demands.

Approval of the project will require the execution of an Interagency Agreement between the City and Western. In staff discussions with Western, principles of the agreement being considered include the following:

- Initial 5-year term, with an option to approve extensions on an annual basis by mutual

agreement. It is anticipated this arrangement could continue until the City needs the wastewater for its own recycled water needs, or Western no longer has excess sewer treatment capacity at its WWRF for the diverted flows.

- Diversion of approximately 0.5 million gallons per day of wastewater from the City's Orangecrest service area.
- The City would pay \$155,000 annually from the Sewer Fund based on Western's cost of service to treat 0.5 million gallons of wastewater per day. This cost will be primarily offset by reduced wastewater flow treatment costs for chemicals and solids disposal.
- That implementation of the project is revenue neutral for the Community Service Districts (Jurupa, Rubidoux and Edgemont) that the City provides wastewater treatment services to.
- Western will be solely responsible for all necessary infrastructure improvement costs.
- Western will be obligated to treat all diverted wastewater flow to regulatory discharge permit standards.
- Western will be entitled to utilize all the recycled water generated and acknowledges no ownership rights to the diverted wastewater flow.

The City's Regional Water Quality Control Plant currently treats about 29 million gallons per day of wastewater. Approximately 130 million gallons per year of recycled water is distributed by the City to its local customers and the remaining flow is discharged to the Santa Ana River. Western's proposal would utilize approximately 182.5 million gallons per year of the flow currently discharged to the Santa Ana River. As noted above, once the City needs the diverted wastewater in the future for its recycled water program, the City would terminate or phase out the agreement.

This proposal was shared with the Riverside Advisory Committee Technical Committee and all the agencies agree the proposal is a good project that increases local utilization of local water supplies.

There is an estimated \$25,000 in RWQCP labor costs associated with the diverted flows that the City will not be able to adjust for, given the proportionally small decrease in flows. City staff believes that whatever small proportion of labor costs cannot be adjusted for will be more than offset by the benefits from developing recycled water use. This agreement will promote development of a largely untapped water resource for the City and its neighboring agencies, conserving water and saving costs going forward.

The Riverside Public Utilities Department concurs with this report.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund associated with this report. The estimated net impact to the Sewer Fund is approximately \$25,000.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez., Interim Public Works Director  
Certified as to  
Availability of funds: Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Orangecrest Area Map