



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2019

ITEM NO: 7

SUBJECT: **MEMBER AGENCY ADMINISTERED PROGRAM FUNDING FROM METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT THROUGH WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FOR THE SMART IRRIGATION PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

ISSUES:

Approve the acceptance of Member Agency Administered Program funding from Metropolitan Water District through Western Municipal Water District for the Smart Irrigation Program in the amount of \$50,000 and authorize a supplemental appropriation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Public Utilities recommend that the City Council:

1. Approve the acceptance of Member Agency Administered Program funding from Metropolitan Water District through Western Municipal Water District for the Smart Irrigation Program in the amount of \$50,000;
2. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute all documents required for the acceptance of such funds including the ability to make minor non-substantive changes; and
3. Authorize an increase in estimated revenue in the amount of \$50,000 to the Water Conservation Fund 521 Revenue from Other Agencies Account and appropriate expenditures in the same amount to the Water Conservation Fund 521 Smart Irrigation Program Expenditure Account.

BACKGROUND:

In August 2019, Riverside Public Utilities' (RPU) Customer Engagement Division relaunched the Smart Irrigation Program (SIP). Available to customers since 2011, the Smart Irrigation Program actively targets high outdoor water-using residential and commercial customers to improve landscape irrigation efficiency. Prior to relaunching this program, staff sought external support from Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) Member Agency Administered Program (MAAP) through Western Municipal Water District in the amount of \$50,000. RPU's funding request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 was approved by MWD for the Smart Irrigation Program.

DISCUSSION:

The Smart Irrigation Program offers qualified RPU water customers a landscape evaluation, an irrigation

system tune-up in preparation of program participation, professional installation of a Wi-Fi enabled smart irrigation controller and high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles for pop-up spray heads. Since the inception of the Smart Irrigation Program in 2011, RPU has installed over 1,300 smart controllers and 80,700 high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles at customers' sites. In total, the SIP has saved an estimated 1.3 billion gallons of water which is enough water to serve approximately 7,900 families for a year.

Metropolitan Water District's Member Agency Administered Program provides funding for member agencies to use toward agency specific water efficiency programs. In order to qualify, the agency specific program must not replicate existing MWD regional programs and must demonstrate water savings. As an added benefit to ratepayers, RPU staff submitted a request through Western Municipal Water District to receive MAAP funding in the amount of 25% of the program's annual budget or \$50,000. The funding will reimburse RPU for the Smart Irrigation Program's costs. If accepted by Board and Council, RPU will receive the funds through Western Municipal Water District.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no total net fiscal impact to the Water Conservation Fund 521. Upon approval, an increase will be made to estimated revenues in the amount of \$50,000 to the Water Conservation Fund 521 Revenue from Other Agencies Account 6220200-339000 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount to the Water Conservation Fund 521 Smart Irrigation Program Expenditure Account 6220200-457023.

Prepared by:	Daniel E. Garcia, Utilities Assistant General Manager/Resources
Approved by:	Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager
Approved by:	Al Zelinka, FAICP, City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Certifies availability of funds:	Brian Seinturier, Utilities Fiscal Manager
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Attachments:

1. Member Agency Administered Funding approval in the amount of \$50,000 from Metropolitan Water District through Western Municipal Water District
2. Presentation