



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: JULY 6, 2021**

**FROM: PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT** **WARD: ALL**

**SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE TO PARTICIPATE IN A NO-COST LANDSCAPE AREA MEASUREMENT PROJECT**

## **ISSUE:**

Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and the City of Riverside to participate in a no-cost landscape area measurement project.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and the City of Riverside to participate in a no-cost landscape area measurement project.

## **BOARD RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is published on June 24, 2021 for the City Council meeting on July 6, 2021.

On June 28, 2021, the Board of Public Utilities will review this item for consideration to recommend the City Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and City of Riverside to participate in a no-cost landscape area measurement project. If the Board approves to forward this recommendation to City Council, the Public Utilities Department respectfully requests the City Council consider this item at their meeting on July 6, 2021.

## **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

Signed in 2018, Assembly Bill (AB) 1668 and Senate Bill (SB) 606 establish a long-term water conservation and drought planning framework for California water providers. These laws require urban retail water suppliers to set and meet a water use objective for their service areas using a water budget-based approach by November 2023. The service area budget will combine indoor and outdoor residential water use, commercial industrial, and institutional (CII) outdoor irrigation, and efficient water loss.

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) is implementing a project to assist a select number of retail water agencies to comply with a component of this new regulatory requirement.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The SAWPA is a joint powers authority with five-member agencies that implements projects related to water quality, watershed health, and water use efficiency. The five-member agencies include Eastern Municipal Water District, Orange County Water District, Western Municipal Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, and Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

The Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP) includes a Water Use Efficiency Task in DWR's Prop 84 grant agreement scope of work. The SAWPA is the lead to implement its two sub-tasks, one being the Water Efficiency Budget Assistance Project. The project will assist 5-10 water retailers within the Santa Ana watershed to calculate the landscaped areas of CII customers with dedicated irrigation meters. This information will help calculate the CII outdoor water use component of the retailers' overall water use objective. Because of the complexities involving CII customer classification and wide range in water consumption (i.e., manufacturing vs. small office), CII mixed-meter use is not a component of a retailer's water use objective under AB 1668. Instead, water retailers will have to demonstrate how they implement performance measures for CII customers with mixed-meters. These performance measures have not yet been determined, but may include implementation of a CII water use classification system or best management practices including water audits and water management plans for CII customers above a certain size or volume of use

## **DISCUSSION:**

The SAWPA's Water Efficiency Budget Project will assist a limited number of retailer water agencies in the Santa Ana River Watershed to measure the landscaped areas of CII customers served by dedicated irrigation meters. Though DWR is providing retail agencies with data necessary to develop an estimated volume of efficient water use for their residential customers, given the complexities of CII classification, it will rely on retail water suppliers to calculate this same information for their dedicated irrigation customers such as parks and business parks. This landscaped area will be aggregated along with residential indoor and outdoor water use and efficient water loss to create the City of Riverside's (City) water use objective by November 2023 as required by AB 1668.

Participation in this project requires retail agencies to enter an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that commits some of their staffing resources to work with SAWPA and its consultant over a span of an estimated 1.5 years. Alternatively, if the City does not participate in this MOU or does not reserve a spot in this first-come, first-served selection process, the City will have to conduct the work required to estimate the landscaped areas of CII properties served by dedicated irrigation meters in-house. This will require additional staff time and associated expenses that would be otherwise covered by SAWPA's assistance program.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

Prepared by: Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager  
Certified as to  
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, City Manager  
Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Memorandum of Understanding
2. Presentation