



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES – WATER COMMITTEE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

SUBJECT: JOHN W. NORTH WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

ISSUE:

Receive an overview of the John W. North Water Treatment Facility

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Public Utilities Water Committee receive the overview of the John W. North Water Treatment Facility.

BACKGROUND:

Recognizing its growing reliance on decreasingly available imported water, Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) developed the initial concept for the J.W. North WTF in 2005. The vision was to rehabilitate the sites of Riverside's first water supply and return non-potable wells to service through an advanced treatment facility. RPU's Flume Well Tract lies along the Santa Ana River, adjacent to the original alignment of the historic Riverside Canal. The location of these wells is in close proximity to the original water supply turnout identified by Riverside's founder, John W. North. These five wells, originally constructed from 1925 through 1960 as water supply for the City, had fallen dormant and were used infrequently as non-potable water supply.

Working with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), RPU and a consulting team developed a plan to rehabilitate these wells and re-permit them for potable water supply. To address CDPH's concerns that the wells were under the direct influence of surface water, a new 10 million gallon per day membrane treatment plant was specified through the City's first design-build process.

DISCUSSION:

RPU staff will provide an informational overview presentation of the J.W. North Water Treatment Facility and source of supply by the Flume Wells.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

Water treatment plants support the City Council Strategic Plan 2025 Priorities and Goals for:

Strategic Priority #2 – Community Well-being:

Goal 2.3 Strengthen neighborhood identities and improve community health and physical environment through amenities and programs that foster an increase sense of community and enhance feelings of pride and belonging citywide. **High water quality contributes to overall public health.**

Strategic Priority #4 – Environmental Stewardship:

Goal 4.2. Sustainably manage local water resources to maximize reliability and advance water reuse to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable water to our community.

Water treatment plants align with City Council's Strategic Plan 2025 Cross-Cutting Treads based on the following definitions:

1. **Community Trust** – RPU customers can trust that they receive safe, reliable drinking water.
2. **Equity** – J.W. North WTF maximizes Riverside's water availability ensuring equal access to safe and reliable water for all members of the community.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – J.W. North WTF utilizes grant funding and uses a local water source at a lower cost compared to import water.
4. **Innovation** – The innovative project includes adaptive reuse of existing facilities, coupled with RPU's first Design-Build project and staff engineered pipeline replacement program.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Present needs are met utilizing an existing local water source in a sustainable matter from the prioritization of groundwater sources.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for the informational update on water treatment at the J.W. North Water Treatment Facility.

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Attachment: Presentation