



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: JULY 27, 2026

SUBJECT: SUGARLOAF RESERVOIR ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS AND FIBER OPTIC INSTALLATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$261,684 – WORK ORDER NO. 2520728

ISSUE:

Consider approval of Work Order No. 2520728 in the total amount of \$261,684 for electrical improvements and fiber optic installation at the Sugarloaf Reservoir site.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Public Utilities approve Work Order No. 2520728 in the total amount of \$261,684 for electrical improvements and fiber optic installation at the Sugarloaf Reservoir.

BACKGROUND:

The Sugarloaf Reservoir, located at the northeastern end of Riverside, was built in 1963. This site also accommodates communication equipment for our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) program. Due to aging infrastructure and communication reliability concerns, an electrical improvement and fiber optic installation project will be initiated upon approval. The site's existing electrical and communications infrastructure has reached the end of its useful life and no longer provides the reliability, security, and resiliency needed to support long-term operations. In addition, the existing electrical conduit is deteriorated and vulnerable to vandalism and theft. The proposed project will install new electrical components and a secure fiber optic communications connection, improving system reliability, reducing maintenance needs, and enhancing the resiliency and security of communications supporting the City's SCADA system.

Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) continues to improve its system monitoring and communication capabilities through its SCADA program. SCADA allows staff to remotely monitor and control critical water facilities in real time, improving system reliability, operational efficiency, and emergency response. In the past year this site has had 17 communication failures resulting in emergency overtime responses and reduced visibility into water system performance.

DISCUSSION:

This project includes two main components: electrical improvements, and deployment of fiber optic communications infrastructure.

The electrical portion of the project includes bringing new power service to the Sugarloaf Reservoir site. This includes installing necessary electrical infrastructure such as conduit, service equipment, and related materials to safely provide reliable power for SCADA equipment, associated communications infrastructure, facility lighting, reservoir instrumentation, and intrusion alarm systems.

The fiber optic portion of the project includes the installation of approximately 1,800 feet of fiber optic cable from the nearest connection point to the reservoir. The fiber optic cable will be installed along a combination of existing and new utility poles. Once installed, the system will be tested and connected to RPU's operations control center, allowing staff to monitor and control the reservoir remotely.

All work will be performed by RPU field forces. Project cost estimates were developed by RPU engineering staff based on standard construction assumptions.

The project/fiscal breakdown is as follows:

Work Type	Performed By	Amount (\$)
Meter, Permit, and Fiber Optic Box Installation	RPU Water Field and Operations Forces	\$31,569
Electrical Installation and Materials	RPU Electric Field Forces	\$170,115
Fiber Optic Installation and Materials	RPU Electric Field Forces	\$60,000
Work Order Total:		\$261,684

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total fiscal impact is \$261,684. Sufficient funds are available in Public Utilities SCADA Phase I – Network Communication Account No. 6230200-470826.

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Approved by:	David A. Garcia, Utilities General Manager
Certified as to availability of funds:	Julie Nemes, Interim Finance Director
Approved by:	Gilbert Hernandez, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Rebecca McKee-Reimbold, Interim City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Project Site Map
2. Presentation