



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: MARCH 24, 2025

SUBJECT: PUMP-POD REBATE FOR WATER USE EFFICIENCY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE RIVERSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING DIVISION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,604

ISSUE:

Consider approving a rebate to Riverside Fire Department for the purchase of a Pump-Pod in the amount of \$15,604.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Public Utilities approve a rebate to Riverside Fire Department of the purchase of a Pump-Pod in the amount of \$15,604.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

On July 3, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the draft resolution of the “Making Conservation a California Way of Life” regulation. This established a Framework to increase water efficiency across the state and has been in effect since January 1, 2025. Water use reductions will be formally enforced starting in 2027.

To assist with gauging the status of Riverside Public Utilities’ (RPU) readiness to meet the objectives set forth in the Framework, a dashboard was developed for RPU by a consultant provided by Western Municipal Water District. The projected compliance for RPU’s overall water use objectives is calculated in the dashboard as “moderate”, meaning RPU is projected to have moderate compliance readiness through 2025. A variety of tasks must be completed to increase RPU’s readiness; these tasks will be met by several focused areas of outdoor water use efficiency measures, programs, incentives and initiatives.

BACKGROUND:

In 2023, the Customer Engagement Team became aware of the Pump-Pod device during an awards ceremony held by Metropolitan Water District (MWD). Ventura County Fire Department was one of six recipients awarded for their large-scale water-efficiency projects for utilizing the Pump-Pod system. The Pump-Pod Direct Recirculating Apparatus Firefighting, Training &

Sustainability (DRAFTS) unit is a device that recaptures and recirculates water used during firefighting training exercises.

In 2015, Ventura County Fire Department tasked Pump-Pod USA with designing a workable solution that would enable them to capture and recirculate the water used during training exercises. Initially created as a mobile training unit for drafting and pumping, Pump-Pod DRAFTS units have evolved into a tool for engineers, candidates and firefighters to recapture the water used during training. To date, Ventura County Fire Department has saved upwards of 45,000,000 gallons of water or approximately 138 acre-feet by utilizing this device. In 2020, Los Angeles County Fire Department and Visalia Fire Department also individually procured Pump-Pods through similar grant funding provided by Cal Water Service.

DISCUSSION:

RPU’s Customer Engagement Team is continuously exploring options for increasing water use savings. These efforts include working with the City’s Fire Department. The Pump-Pod system is a device and process that recaptures and recirculates the water used during firefighter training. It is expected to save more than 4,500,000 gallons annually or approximately 13 acre-feet, which would be enough to fill nearly seven Olympic-sized swimming pools. In addition to the large volume of water saved, the lifetime resource cost of the Pump Pod to the utility is \$113 per acre foot of water. In comparison, if RPU were to produce an acre foot of water, the cost of production is \$200 per acre foot or, if RPU was required to purchase water from MWD, the cost would be \$1,400 per acre foot.

Since the Pump-Pod captures and recirculates water, RPU will be able to report on the water savings it will make, and this will support RPU in meeting the guidelines set forth in the “Making Conservation a California Way of Life” regulation.

To fund the purchase of the Pump-Pod, the Riverside Fire Department will utilize funding from multiple sources: Metropolitan Water District, Western Municipal Water District, RPU and RFD. Metropolitan Water District will be utilizing their Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP) as the funding source for this project. and this “pay-for-performance” design will allow RFD to implement customer projects for their specific sites. The combined WSIP through Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant provides a total of \$70,746 of the \$118,500 total device purchase cost. In addition, Western Municipal Water District will contribute Member Agency Allocation funds to this project.

The breakdown of cost and different agency contributions are as follows:

Agency	Funding
MWD Contribution (WISP & DWR)	\$70,746
WMWD Contribution	\$20,000
RPU Contribution	\$15,604
Riverside Fire Department Contribution	\$12,500
Total:	\$118,850

Riverside Fire Department’s application has been approved by Metropolitan Water District through the Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP). As part of the approved application terms, RFD will receive funding directly from MWD, along with additional funding from Western Municipal Water

District. Upon completion, the Riverside Fire Department will own the asset and assume responsibility for the device maintenance and storage.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The actions taken to increase the efficient use of water support **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.

This item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Riverside is actively engaged in providing education and tools to the community that can help RPU customers increase their water use efficiency.
2. **Equity** – Riverside has developed a suite of successful water conservation programs that reduce demand and that programs are accessible to all water customers.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The programs contained in this report all follow industry best practices and are either paid for in full or are subsidized in part by MWD funds.
4. **Innovation** – The implementation of the devices supported by the rebates will enable customers to access the most current innovations in water savings and conservation technology for their homes and businesses.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – By providing community education and enhanced water rebates to customers, RPU’s water conservation measures help all City residents in effectively managing our water resources in a sustainable manner.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total fiscal impact is \$15,604. Sufficient funds are available in Public Utilities 521 Fund Account No. 6220200-457028.

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Approved as to form:	Jack Liu, Interim City Attorney

Attachment: Presentation