This brief is being provided to inform the board, staff, and public of the details of an agenda item that requires action by the board. The President of the Board will provide board members, staff, and the public the opportunity to ask questions about this topic when this agenda item is announced.

**Date:** August 26, 2021

**Originator:** Rich McLaughlin

**Agenda Topic Title**: **SMALL COMMUNITY WELL 29 REHABILITATION GRANT RESOLUTION**

**Purpose of Brief:** To approve a grant resolution allowing the General Manager to apply for a grant through the California Department of Water Resources Small Community Drought Relief Program

**Supporting Documents Included:** Draft Resolution

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1. **Agenda Topic Brief or Update:**

Two hundred million dollars of General Fund monies have been appropriated for the Small Community Drought Relief Program in response to the 2021 drought. Funds will be available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2024 on a first come, first serve basis.

The program’s purpose is to make grants and direct expenditures for interim or immediate relief in response to conditions arising from a drought scenario to address immediate impacts on human health and to provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies.

"Interim or immediate relief” means any of the following:

(F) New wells or rehabilitation of existing wells.

(G) Construction or installation of permanent connections to adjacent water systems, recycled water projects that provide immediate relief to potable water supplies, and other projects that support immediate drought response.

Our Well 29 Rehabilitation Project fits cleanly under item F.

Well 29 has been temporarily shut down due to the problem of entrapped air in the aquifer. The well results in cloudy water throughout the district. The water has been tested as perfectly safe but the cloudiness results in a secondary contamination (taste, odor, or appearance) rating. The solution is to install an air separation tank to allow entrapped air to release and dissipate; water can then be introduced to the distribution system.

Note: After responding to the DWR Drought Funding Survey to identify grant opportunities in the forthcoming DWR Fall Grants Program, I received an unsolicited email from the Program Manager of DWR’s Financial Assistance branch encouraging me to submit this opportunity under this program as it opened two weeks ago, and they have funding available.

1. **Anticipated Impacts to the District -** (*Consider financial impact, change in procedures, customer, and staff communication*):

This grant would provide funding to rehabilitate Well 29 and return it to production. This in turn will allow us to put the well back into our production cycle allowing for critical rest periods for our other wells. According to our Master Plan, the community will need the capability to produce up to 150 GPM to meet buildout demands. While this is a relatively low producing well (15-20 GPM), it adds to this capacity. Additionally, our plans for rehabilitating this well include the installation of a 60,000 gallon low profile water tank to allow air dissipation, with the added benefit of providing an additional 60,000 gallons of water storage. This presents a win-win scenario for the District.

This grant DOES NOT require a funding match. However, strategically it is always smart to contribute some funding to any grant request. Demonstrating commitment can make the difference between an award and no award. I plan to contribute $20,000 of capital funds representing 15% of this $160,000 project.

1. **Anticipated Impacts to the Customer –** *Standby, Residential, Commercial***:**

Improved drought resilience due to another producing well and increased domestic water storage.

1. **Next Steps for this Topic**:

The Board will need to pass the attached resolution authorizing me to submit the grant package.