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 WATER RECLAMATION AND DROUGT RELIEF 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

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

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.

GMCSD needs a wastewater reclamation facility for three reasons:

1. To relieve pressure on the community leachfields and meet the long term requirement of our RWQCB Water Quality Order
2. To relive pressure on the Well 17 aquifer by reducing demand on golf course well 25 which shares the same aquifer. Thereby increasing availability of Well 17 to produce water for the CSD during the summer season.
3. A first step in reducing overall draw on the regional aquifers in accordance with Ground Water Sustainability objectives.

While not as clean as the Well Rehabilitation Grant request, this project directly supports the overall longer term objectives of DWR drought resilience programs.

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 develop the first phase of the District’s planned water reclamation project, installing the first of two 20,000 gallon per day wastewater reclamation units. The District already has a reclaimed water sharing agreement with the Nakoma resort to accept properly treated water in the golf course irrigation ponds. With grant approval, we’ll enter negotiations with the resort to modify the agreement to guarantee increased access to Well 17 during the summer season, ensuring we have better resilience to the likely affects of drought.

Our geohydrologist isotope studies indicate that surface water takes from 18 to 24 months before being accessible in our aquifer. As a result, we likely would not see the effects of drought for roughly the same period after entering a drought period. Given this scenario, we could expect to see some drought effects in within the next 6 to 12 months. With any reduced production in existing wells, ready access to Well 17 becomes increasingly important. I believe this builds a relatively strong case for grant approval.

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 $25,000 of capital funds representing 5% of this $515,000 project.

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

Improved drought resilience due to an overall reduction in aquifer draw down and increase access to Well 17.

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

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