This brief is provided to inform the board, staff, and public of the details of an agenda item that requires action from 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:** 25 February 2022

**Originator:** General Manager

**Purpose of Brief:** Discuss and Approve the proposed Leach Field Expansion Project

**Supporting Documents Included:**

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

1. **Description:**

The District’s leach fields are operating at capacity during peak summer months. In 2020 the District completed preliminary engineering on expanding the Falling Water Leach Field (FWLF) onto the two adjacent CSD owned parcels pending suitable percolation testing. In 2021 the District completed partial clearing of the lots under a California Department of Forestry Less than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption and contracted Folchi construction to prepare the site. Subsequent percolation testing by CME Engineering demonstrated the site is suitable for the proposed project. The original plan was to expand the field in three phases over three years at an estimated cost of $35k per phase.

In 2022 the District received an un-forecast grant of $84k in COVID relief funding. The guidelines for these funds is that they can be used to compensate the District for COVID related shortfalls, or investment in needed District infrastructure.

1. **Reason for Recommended Board Action -** (*Consider compliance, cost savings, fixing a problem*):

The original Gold Mountain Development permit recommended adding a water reclamation facility once leach fields reached capacity. The original Master Plan estimate for a reclamation plant was $2M. Developments in reclamation technology have reduced that cost to an estimated $500k. While the District is pursuing grant funding for the plant, we have yet to be successful. The proposed rate restructuring may allow the District to proceed with reclamation development, but the need for leach field relief is now. Estimated cost for the expansion project is approximately $110k which can be offset with the COVID relief funds. The completed expansion project is expected to relieve pressure on existing fields for 2-3 fields depending on District growth allowing time for planning and construction of the reclamation facility.

1. **Anticipated Impacts to the District (negative and/or positive) -** (*Consider financial impact, change in procedures, customer and staff communication, and effect if recommendations are not adopted*):

The expanded leach field will reduce pressure on the existing field, reducing the probability of an expensive surface expression. Using the COVID relief funds will pay for the majority, if not all, of the project. If necessary, we may have to rely on a small transfer from Capital Reserves in 2023 to complete the project.

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

Leach field expansion will reduce short to mid-term pressure on the wastewater system allowing uninterrupted development over the next 2-3 years.

1. **Recommendation (s):** Staff recommends authorization for the use of the COVID relief funds to continue the FWLF expansion progress.