



## CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Arturo Vela, Acting City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Shah Nawaz, Deputy Water/Wastewater Director  
Art Vela, Acting City Manager

**MEETING DATE:** August 26, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to Apply for Bureau of Reclamation's Drought Resiliency Program Grant Funding for the Installation of a New Municipal Well C-9.

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the submittal of a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation's Drought Resiliency Program for the installation of a new municipal Well C-9.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City relies on a combination of groundwater wells and imported water to meet its potable water demands. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) administers the Drought Resiliency Program, which provides funding to water suppliers for infrastructure improvements that increase water supply reliability, enhance drought preparedness, and mitigate the impacts of future water shortages. Eligible projects include the construction of new wells to diversify and strengthen local water supplies.

City staff have identified the drilling of a new municipal well as a priority project that aligns closely with the goals of the BOR program. This well would improve the City's ability to meet peak demand, reduce reliance on imported water, and provide greater operational flexibility in times of drought or emergency.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Applying for and securing BOR Drought Resiliency Program grant funding will:

- Increase Water Supply Reliability
- Enhance System Redundancy and Resiliency
- Leverage External Funding
- Support Long-Term Sustainability Goals

A new well will provide an additional, independent water source and will allow the City to better manage peak demands, conduct maintenance on existing wells without service interruptions, and respond more effectively to emergency situations. The BOR grant could offset a substantial portion of project costs, allowing the City to implement a critical infrastructure improvement with reduced impact to the Water Fund and ratepayers. By expanding groundwater production capacity, the City will be better positioned to maintain compliance with the water quality regulations (e.g., Chromium-6), meet the 2018 Integrated Master Plan (IMP) objectives, and adapt to future supply challenges.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

A proposal in the amount of \$20,100 was received from Engineering Solutions Services (ESS) to prepare and submit the City's application for the BOR's Drought Resiliency Program grant. ESS is currently under a multi-year contract with the City to provide grant research, writing, and management services.

The cost of this proposal will be funded through the Water Fund, Account No. 661-6300-471.95-08.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Do not Authorize staff to apply for the BOR grant funding opportunity.

**BUDGETED?:**

Yes

**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:**

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Banning - BOR DRP 2025 - Project Proposal 20250702.pdf](#)