



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert Fisher, Acting City Manager

PREPARED BY: Art Vela, Public Works Director

MEETING DATE: February 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Discussion of a City of Banning Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss the City's current fire hydrant maintenance activities and the development of a formal Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program.

BACKGROUND:

Due to the recent fires in Los Angeles County, the public has had general criticism about California's water management and specific concerns about fire hydrant readiness to serve. It's noted that the complications during the recent fires in Southern California primarily revolved around the severity and span of the fires along with a lack of water supply for various reasons (e.g. significant increase in fire suppression demand, unavailable equipment such as storage reservoirs and wells, etc.). Nonetheless, the magnitude of the devastation created by the recent fires is reason enough to reevaluate current practices and identify areas for improvement.

While the City of Banning, Water Division of the Public Works Department, does not currently have a formal written fire hydrant maintenance policy, current practices include the inspection and maintenance of fire hydrants of most, but not all, fire hydrants throughout the City. Typically, the City's Water Division staff inspect and operate fire hydrants during various activities such as: water main flushing, draining related to leak repairs, fire flow testing, installation of construction water meters, pressure testing/monitoring and visual inspections. While these activities regularly allow staff to ensure fire hydrants are maintained, it's possible that not all fire hydrants are visited and operated by staff.

In order to continue with the City's goal of providing safe, affordable and reliable water service, it would be prudent for the Public Works Department to develop a formal Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program which includes:

- Maintenance of approximately 1,820 Fire Hydrants (FH)
- Inspect and exercise each FH once every two years at minimum
- Maintain GIS mapping of FH
- Utilize Asset Management Software as system of record to ensure all FH are inspected and exercised
- Inspection checklist (e.g. rust, bolts, breakaways, paint, lubrication, weeds, traffic marker, nozzle caps, etc.)
- Repair and/or replace FH when needed
- Review and identification of areas in the City that may lack FH

If acceptable to City Council, staff will begin working on a formal written FH Maintenance Program and

present it to City Council at a later date.

JUSTIFICATION:

The development of a formal written Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program will ensure that FH are readily available and in operable condition.

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is anticipated that the Water Division would minimally need to add one Water Service Maintenance Worker position to be dedicated to the FH Maintenance Program.

Other unknown costs would be associated with water loss (non-revenue water) during FH flushing, FH repairs/replacements, miscellaneous materials.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not move forward with a formal written FH Maintenance Program and continue with current practices.

BUDGETED?:

No

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

No