



Agenda Item: 14.A
Date of Meeting: February 26, 2024
Department: Public Works

STAFF REPORT

To: City Council
From: Nora Gamino
Subject: **A Resolution Relating to Designating an Authorized Representative for a Financial Assistance Application with the State Water Resources Control Board**
Prepared On: February 20, 2024
Attachments: No. 2024-(xx) Authorizing Resolution for CWSRF

Background/History:

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has several financing and funding programs for water and wastewater projects. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) can fund wastewater facilities from planning to construction. Primarily, the program financed projects with low interest loans, however small, disadvantaged communities may be eligible for grants or principal forgiveness.

Upon request, the SWRCB Division of Finance (DFA) provided a formal determination of the disadvantaged status of BAWA. Unfortunately, the combined services areas of the District and the City do not qualify as a disadvantaged community. However, BAWA does qualify if the Tribe is included in the determination rather than just being in the sphere of influence. The formal determination from the DFA, which includes the Tribe, is valid through March 31, 2024.

There are two types of grant applications, planning and construction. The development of a combined wastewater treatment plant would be eligible for up to \$125,000 per household in funding, however funding is limited, and it is not likely that BAWA would be funded through the CWSRF for 100% of construction. The planning aspects, such as environmental compliance, plant design, and future governance structure of a combined plant, can all be included in the scope of a planning grant. Additionally, planning costs incurred prior to grant award, such as a Preliminary Engineering Report, could be eligible for reimbursement if accurate records are maintained.

Analysis/Discussion:

There is no more funding available this fiscal year. For consideration in next year's budget, the grant application would need to be submitted no later than March 2024. Decisions on funding would occur in late summer of 2024 and funds would be received by June 2025.

While regionalization and consolidation projects are high priorities for funding, the grants are typically managed through one of the two entities. The DFA recommended that the City or the District be the applicant for the grant rather than BAWA. The City provides the administrative services, including fiscal accountability, for BAWA, therefore the BAWA Board of Directors agreed with the City taking the lead at their January 16, 2024 quarterly meeting.

As part of the application, an Authorizing Resolution is required to identify an Authorized Representative. The City of Bishop's Public Works Director also currently serves as the Administrator for BAWA. As such, it is recommended that the City's Public Works Director be identified as the Authorized Representative on the financial assistance application.

Economic Impacts:

None

Budget Impacts:

If approved, the cost of the project would be paid through the City and then reimbursed through the DFA. Because funding is not anticipated until June 2025, the reimbursable project would be included in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 budget.

Legal Review:

City Attorney Pucci has reviewed this item and finds that the recommended action complies with the law.

Recommended Action:

Council to approve a resolution relating to designating an authorized representative for a financial assistance application with the State Water Resources Control Board (by title only).

Approved By: Ethan Aukee 2/22/2024

Approved By: Robin Picken 2/22/2024

Approved By: Dean Pucci 2/22/2024

Approved By: Deston Dishion 2/22/2024