



Agenda Item: 15.D
Date of Meeting: July 22, 2024
Department: Public Works

STAFF REPORT

To: City Council
From: Nora Gamino
Subject: **Preliminary Engineering Report for 2022 Disaster Water Grant Application**
Prepared On: July 17, 2024
Attachments: Lumos Task Order 1 - USDA Simple PER
On-Call Services - PSA Lumos FINAL

Background/History:

USDA Rural Development (RD) has a program to help eligible communities handle expenses related to the calendar year 2022 Presidentially declared disasters that damaged water and wastewater systems in rural communities. The storm events that occurred in December 2022 had major impacts to our wastewater systems due to severe inflow and infiltration experienced resulting from the elevated groundwater table. The funds from this program “can be used to develop water infrastructure system capacity and resiliency to reduce or eliminate long term risks from hazards resulting” (USDA RD website) from these storm events.

Analysis/Discussion:

Elevated ground water from storm events resulted in the city’s relatively shallow sewer lines and manholes, being underwater. The inflow and infiltration into the sewer lines caused the total flows at the treatment plant to more than double for a sustained duration of time causing a strain on city resources and overall system. Only recently have the impacts of the high ground water table started to recede with the flows slowly returning to normal. The degraded pipes and manholes, however, are still in poor condition and it is expected that when another large storm even occurs, the city will again experience the strain on our wastewater system and resources.

It is imperative that the public works department begins addressing the poor condition of the city’s underground utilities and create a more resilient sewer collection system. Because the elevated plant flows can be directly related to the 2022 Presidentially declared disasters, the city is eligible to apply for the USDA funds. One of the required components of the grant application is a simplified Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).

Lumos & Associates has already been contracted by the Eastern Sierra Services District to provide a PER for their grant application. Lumos is also already on contract with the city to

provide on-call engineering services and has a history of working with the City and District on sewer-related engineering projects. Therefore, they are uniquely suited to quickly develop this PER for the City.

Economic Impacts:

None.

Budget Impacts:

This item is not currently included in the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget, an adjustment to the Sewer Fund for capital improvements (line item 002-051-56027) in the amount of \$37,000 is proposed to cover this cost. If the grant funds are received, the cost of the PER and application preparation are eligible for reimbursement.

Legal Review:

Not required.

Recommended Action:

Council consideration to approve the Public Works Director to sign a Task Order with Lumos and Associates for the preparation of a Preliminary Engineering Report for a grant application with USDA RD in the not-to-exceed amount of \$37,000 and a budget adjustment to the sewer fund as proposed.

Approved By: Ethan Aukee 7/18/2024

Approved By: Robin Picken 7/18/2024

Approved By: Deston Dishion 7/18/2024

Approved By: