



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Date: September 13, 2013

Agenda Item No.: 9

Meeting Date: October 23, 2013

To: COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

From: SHANA EPSTEIN, VENTURA WATER GENERAL MANAGER

Subject: STATUS OF VENTURA WATER GRANTS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "SE", located to the right of the "From:" line.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee receive this report summarizing the status of Ventura Water's efforts to secure grant funding.

SUMMARY

Ventura Water actively pursues grant opportunities to leverage local funding for a variety of water and wastewater related projects. In the past two years, Ventura Water received several grants which are outlined below:

- In 2012, Ventura Water was awarded under the WaterSMART Development of a Feasibility Study Under the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program, a grant of \$150,000 from the United State Bureau of Reclamation for a facilities planning study for expanding recycled water delivery from the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility.
- In conjunction with the WaterSMART grant, Ventura Water was awarded a Water Recycling Facilities Planning Grant for \$75,000 from the California State Water Resources Control Board for a facilities planning study for expanding recycled water delivery from the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility.
- In 2012-13, Ventura Water participated in a regional effort that secured \$397,000 of 2nd Phase 2 -Prop 84 Planning Grant funding from the California Department of Water Resources to fund the development of a Lower Santa Clara River Groundwater Basins Salt and Nutrient Management Plan.

DISCUSSION

The City utilizes eCivis, an online grants management software system for local governments and community based organizations to identify grant opportunities. In addition to eCivis, Ventura Water staff receives notification of grant opportunities through electronic messages, mailed flyers and participation in various integrated water resource planning efforts. Currently we have only one grant that is pending approval, which is:

- A Water Conservation Field Services Program Grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for \$100,000 for a comprehensive water conservations demonstration and rebate program.

Although staff has been successful in securing the grant funding addressed above in the Summary section, there are unfortunately many grants we have applied for and not received which include:

- In 2013, Ventura Water submitted to the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, a grant application for \$300,000 to complete system optimization improvements.
- In 2012, in collaboration with Ventura Police and Ventura Fire, Ventura Water applied to the State Homeland Security Grant Program for \$48,000 for the installation of video surveillance equipment and motion detection alarming to be placed around the City's Wastewater Plant Chlorine Building for security purposes.
- In 2012, along with members of the Ventura River Watershed Council, Ventura Water applied for \$249,614 in Local Groundwater Assistance grant funding from the California Department of Water Resources to conduct a surface water/groundwater interaction study in the Upper Ventura River Basin in order to advance the development of a Groundwater Management Plan.
- In 2012, Ventura Water submitted to the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, grant application for \$98,260 to fund a Residential and Commercial Water Efficiency Assistance Program.

Staff will continue to explore grant funding prospects as they arise, although these opportunities are becoming less frequent due to limited state and federal funding.

Prepared by Karen Waln, Management Analyst II
For



Shana Epstein
Ventura Water General Manager