



**Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District
Board of Directors Meeting**

July 11, 2022

**Approval of Resolution 2022-7 Authorizing the District to Solicit Financial Assistance
through the Execution of an Application and Agreement with the United States
Bureau of Reclamation**

Synopsis

The Board of Directors is requested to approve Resolution 2022-7 authorizing the District to solicit financial assistance for the Metro Main AMI Meter Replacements and WaterSMART by Vertexone Platform and Services. This Resolution will authorize the District to solicit financial assistance through the execution of an application and agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation. With the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investing billions of dollars in water system infrastructure, staff believes submitting this project would assist the District with implementing AMI fixed network metering, which will provide benefits to District customers in many different ways. This Resolution will authorize staff to proceed with submitting documents, approving documents, and entering into agreements if grant funding is provided to the District.

Background

Reclamation issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00008 for the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2023, which includes Municipal Metering projects that install meters, resulting in measurable water savings. Staff are requesting to submit a grant application for Funding Group II which could provide up to \$2,000,000 in Federal funds through this Notice of Funding Opportunity and the funding would be available for on-the-ground projects that may take up to three years to complete. This funding opportunity would require a minimum of a 50% District match to cover the cost of this project, which will come from metered water revenue as part of the Capital Improvement Program. If the District does not receive this grant, it will take more than ten years to get all of the Metro Main Service Area converted to the District's AMI fixed network, which allows staff to pull reads in from a computer in place of driving through the neighborhoods using high priced fuel, emitting greenhouse gases and soot into the air from the vehicle exhaust. Staff will still need to drive into neighborhoods for meter maintenance, however; this will greatly reduce staff time with three full-time employees currently dedicated to reading meters and reduce the miles driven in three District vehicles with an average of 29,270 miles driven in the last 12 months. If the miles driven are reduced by 75%, this would reduce about 9,157,500 grams of CO2 emission.

Issues

In order to be eligible for grant funding associated with the Reclamation WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, staff recommends submitting an application for the Metro Main AMI Meter Replacement and WaterSMART by Vertexone Platform and Services, that will provide customers with water usage access on their phones, tablets, or computers. This process has been shown to reduce water usage by an average of 5%.

If a grant is awarded, the revision to the Buy America Preference guidance will apply and the estimated project cost of \$4.2 million includes the costs associated with the additional requirements along with contractor's pricing for Davis Bacon federal wages. This grant opportunity closes on July 28, 2022, and staff will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement if awarded.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and discuss with staff the request to solicit financial assistance in the form of grant funding for the Metro Main AMI metering and customer platform. It is also recommended that the Board authorize the Board Chair, General Manager, and Chief Financial Officer to sign all associated documents to accomplish this funding request.

Recommended Motion

I move to approve and adopt Resolution 2022-7 authorizing the District to solicit grant funding through the execution of an application and agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for an amount up to \$2,000,000 for the District's portion of Metro Main AMI meters and customer platform software.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bracken, M.Adm.
Chief Financial Officer

I concur with the above-noted report.
Respectfully submitted

Joseph Olsen, P.E.
General Manager