
Meeting Date: May 8, 2024
Staff Contact: Mark Kelly, Water Resources Manager

TITLE: R-24-14 – Authorizing the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority to Accept Grant Award/Agreement R24AP00177 with the Bureau of Reclamation for the Southside Wastewater Reclamation Plant Outfall Restoration Project

ACTION: Introduction and Immediate Action Requested

SUMMARY:

This Resolution authorizes the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) to enter into a Grant Award/Agreement in the amount of \$3,014,481 between the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Water Authority for the purpose of the Southside Wastewater Reclamation Plant (SWRP) Outfall Restoration Project. The application for funding was approved by the Water Authority Board on June 28, 2023.

The SWRP Outfall Restoration Project will improve and enhance existing habitat areas through the removal of invasive species and the establishment of diverse, native riparian species. Completion of this project will improve water quality and will benefit native species including the endangered Rio Grande Silvery Minnow, New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo.

Additionally, the SWRP Outfall Restoration project will create floodplain habitat areas that will extend upstream and downstream of the SWRP treated effluent outfall into the Rio Grande and tie into existing restoration sites north and south of the project area. New community trails will be constructed throughout the project area, increasing access to this area of the Bosque and improving access for maintenance of the restoration areas.

This project aligns with the Water Authority's 100-year water resources management strategy and Water 2120 policies including: Policy K – Preserve and Enhance the Quality of Life in the Region and Policy J – Protect Valued Environmental and Cultural Resources.

This resolution provides the Executive Director with the authority to enter into an agreement with the US Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation related to this funding and all established deadlines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Water Authority will provide a cost sharing amount of \$4,070,000 which has been identified in the awarded Capital Outlay Appropriations and Water Trust Board funding.

1 Fed Grants (Revenue) \$3,014,481

2 Section 2. That the Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and enter into
3 subsequent agreements, amendments and approve reimbursement requests with the
4 Bureau of Reclamation regarding WaterSMART SWRP Outfall Restoration Project
5 funding and to take any other action necessary to carry out the directives of this
6 resolution.

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