Albuquerque Bernalillo County
Water Utility Authority

Agenda Item No. 9d

Meeting Date: August 23, 2023
Staff Contact: Mark S. Sanchez, Executive Director

TITLE: **R-23-21 – Authorizing the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority to Engage in Collaboration Toward the Development of a Reuse Water Treatment Facility to Supply the Maxeon Solar Project**

ACTION: **Recommend Approval**

SUMMARY:
Maxeon Solar Technologies has announced its intention to develop a $1 billion solar cell and panel factory at Mesa Del Sol which is anticipated to employ approximately 1,800 people and bring an economic impact of approximately $4.2 billion to the local and state economy (the "Project"). An additional reuse water treatment facility would be required to support the Project and the State of New Mexico has committed $100 million for the Project to assist in the planning, design, and construction a reuse treatment facility. The terms and the structure of this proposed funding has not been fully developed, and additional coordination by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) will be required to evaluate options for the Project to comply with existing Water Authority policies and bond covenants**.**

The Water Authority has an existing development agreement with Mesa Del Sol that establishes the plans, terms and commitments for service at Mesa Del Sol. Mesa Del Sol is in the process of updating a water, reuse and wastewater facilities master plan that will provide further details necessary for implementation of the existing development agreement, including how the Project may impact water, reuse, and wastewater needs. Additional evaluation and coordination by the Water Authority will be required for the implementation of the updated utility plan.

Once the financing and development issues are satisfactorily resolved, the Water Authority will develop a Request for Proposals to procure the design/build services necessary to meet the timeline of the Project. Any award as the result of the RFP will be subject to Board appropriations and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:
Water Authority policy and bond covenants require that the Project be at no net expense to current ratepayers.

ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY

BILL NO. R-23-21

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN COLLABORATION TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REUSE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY TO SUPPLY THE MAXEON SOLAR PROJECT.

WHEREAS, Maxeon Solar Technologies has announced its intention to develop a $1 billion solar cell and panel factory at Mesa Del Sol (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, upon its completion the Project is anticipated to employ approximately 1,800 people and bring an economic impact of approximately $4.2 billion to the local and state economy; and

WHEREAS, additional reuse water treatment would be required to supply the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) has an existing development agreement with Mesa Del Sol that contains the current plans, terms and commitments for Water Authority service at Mesa Del Sol; and

WHEREAS, Mesa Del Sol is presently in the process of updating a water and wastewater facilities master plan that will provide further details necessary for implementation of the existing development agreement, including how the Project may impact water, reuse and wastewater needs; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico has committed $100 million for the Project to assist in the planning, design, and construction of the reuse treatment facility; and

WHEREAS, the terms and the structure of this proposed funding have not been fully developed, and additional coordination by the Water Authority will be required to evaluate options for the Project to comply with existing policies and bond covenants; and

WHEREAS, once funding is secured and received under mutually acceptable terms, the procurement of design/build services by the Water Authority will be necessary to meet the timeline of the Project.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WATER AUTHORITY:

Section 1. The Water Authority will explore and expedite the feasibility of funding, design, development, construction, and other matters relating to the reuse treatment facility that will be necessary to the support the Project.

Section 2. The Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and prepare agreements consistent with Water Authority polices and bond covenants with the relevant public and private entities developing the Project.

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