
Meeting Date: December 18, 2013
Staff Contact: Frank Roth, Senior Policy Manager

TITLE: R-13-19 – Authorizing the Water Authority to Submit an Application for WaterSMART Grant Financial Assistance for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project

ACTION: Recommend Approval

SUMMARY:

The Water Authority is seeking WaterSMART grant funding assistance for its Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project (AMI Project). The grant will provide up to \$1 million in matching funds for the project over a two-year period. The grant would be applied towards Phase 4a of the AMI Project which will deploy about 14,000 AMI meters. The total project cost will be about \$3 million. It is anticipated that Phase 4a will save the Water Authority about 62 million gallons of water annually.

The purpose of the AMI Project is to replace the Water Authority's aging meters with modern smart meters in order to save money, deliver more accurate bills and encourage users to conserve water. AMI customers will be able to view in real-time exactly how much water they consume and use this information to actively manage and reduce their daily usage and save on their water bill. They also can change their basic account data, create personal goals and budgets with reminders and updates, and download targeted educational material to learn about and enroll in resource-conservation programs. The technology will also allow the Water Authority to remotely review consumption levels across the service area, assisting with conservation and billing and identifying and repairing leaks before they become significant problems.

With Phase 4a, about 70,000 meters will have been converted from manual reading to automatic reading and will account for 35% of the billed revenue collected. The most recent phase, Phase 3, is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Water Authority will be providing a two-thirds match with its contribution at \$2 million. The Water Authority's share has already been appropriated.

BILL NO. R-13-19