
Meeting Date: June 28, 2023

Staff Contact: Elizabeth Anderson, Chief Planning Officer

TITLE: R-23-16 – Authorizing the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority to Submit an Application for WaterSMART Grant Financial Assistance for the Southside Wastewater Reclamation Plant Outfall Restoration Project

ACTION: Recommend Approval

SUMMARY:

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) is seeking WaterSMART grant funding assistance for the Southside Wastewater Reclamation Plant (SWRP) Outfall Restoration Project.

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 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 35%, which has been identified in awarded Capital Outlay Appropriations and Water Trust Board funding.

1 Section 2. That Water Authority will provide a cost sharing amount of 35% of
2 the total project cost.

3 Section 3. That the Executive Director shall have the authority to enter into an
4 agreement and meet all established deadlines.

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