



Meeting Date: 06/09/09

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Prepared By: Ken Ortega, Public Works Director

Agenda Item No. I-14

Reviewed By: City Manager

City Attorney

Finance

Other (Specify)

**DATE:** May 28, 2009

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Mark S. Norris, Assistant Public Works Director  
Public Works Department, Utilities Services Branch

**SUBJECT:** Application for the United States Bureau of Reclamation  
Challenge Grant Program 2009 for Oxnard Parks  
Weather-Based Evapotranspiration Controller Program

**RECOMMENDATION**

That City Council:

1. Receive and file the Bureau of Reclamation Challenge Grant application submitted by the Water Resources Division.
2. Approve a resolution approving an application for and execution of a cooperative agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).
3. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to appropriate grant and matching funds to Water Fund 601 upon award of the grant.

**DISCUSSION**

On February 17, 2009 President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). ARRA is designed to infuse \$787 billion into State and local economies as part of a comprehensive national strategy to create jobs and stimulate spending. The stimulus package provides local governments with billions of dollars to rebuild and modernize infrastructure systems such as transit, streets, roadways and utilities. The Challenge Grant program supports projects that bank water, market water, conserve water, or generally make more efficient use of existing water supplies that will preserve and create jobs, assist those impacted by the recession, provide investments in infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits, and complete a project that will provide a useful service.

On May 22, 2009 the Water Resources Division submitted an application to the Bureau of Reclamation under the Challenge Grant Program: Recovery Act of 2009 Water Marketing and Efficiency Grants for a project to improve irrigation efficiency in City parks and other landscaped areas. The Weather-Based Evapotranspiration Controller Program (Controller Program) project will be a collaborative effort between the Water Resources Division and the General Services Department's Parks and Facilities Division. The focus of the application is a comprehensive project designed to improve water use efficiency among City-maintained landscapes. If awarded, Parks and Facilities staff will oversee outside service providers who will retrofit and modernize over 200 existing irrigation controllers in Oxnard parks and other landscaped areas with weather-based irrigation controllers (WBICs). Water Resources Division staff will develop water budgets for each location and will provide water-use monitoring and reporting.

WBICs utilize real-time weather data to apply the proper amount of water to landscape areas. WBICs communicate wirelessly with local weather stations to determine an area's evapotranspiration rate, or the rate at which the soil's moisture is lost to the atmosphere through evaporation and plant transpiration. Pre-programmed watering schedules are then modified to replace only the amount of water lost to evapotranspiration, reducing overall water use. In addition, the WBICs will feature flow sense technology, which will alert Parks staff when breaks or leaks occur, allowing Parks staff to make quick repairs and minimize water loss to leaks.

Through the Controller Program, the City aims to reduce the water consumption of its irrigated landscapes while maintaining healthy, aesthetically pleasing parks, medians, and parkways. Similar controller programs studied throughout southern California have resulted in overall water savings of 20% to 50%. A conservative 20% estimate for the potential water savings associated with the Controller Program results in 650 acre-feet per year of water saved. In addition, the program will reduce General Fund expenditures by the Parks and Facilities Division on landscape irrigation water. The Controller Program will also provide an important opportunity for the City to demonstrate wise use of our water resources in areas that are highly-visible to the public – an important message in our current times of multi-year drought and a stressed State water supply system.

The BOR expects to notify grant applicants of awards in June 2009. If awarded, the Controller Program is expected to commence in September 2009 and last approximately 12 months, including equipment procurement, installation, programming, and monitoring of results.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The total project cost is estimated to be \$2,162,663. The City's match will be a minimum of \$1,141,804, of which \$69,400 will be in-kind services provided by General Services Department's Parks and Facilities Division and the Water Resources Division. The maximum grant funds provided by the US BOR will be \$1,020,859.

There are sufficient funds in Water Fund 601 Fund Balance to pay for the City's match.

(AAE:drc;joh)

Update of Applications Submitted for the Funding of Public Works Capital Projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act).

May 28, 2009

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Attachment #1 - United States Bureau of Reclamation Challenge Grant Application

#2 - Resolution Approving an Application for and Execution of a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Note: The United States Bureau of Reclamation Challenge Grant Application has been provided to the City Council. Copies are available for review at the Circulation Desk in the Library after 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the Council meeting and at the City Clerk's Office after 8:00 a.m. on Friday.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR AND EXECUTION OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The City of Council of the City of Oxnard hereby resolves as follows:

1. The City Council of the City of Oxnard supports preparation and submittal of an application to the United States Bureau of Reclamation Challenge Grant Program 2009 for Oxnard Parks Weather-Based Evapotranspiration (ET) Controller Program.
2. If selected for a grant award under the United States Bureau of Reclamation Challenge Grant Program 2009 to assist in the funding of Oxnard Parks Weather-Based Evapotranspiration (ET) Controller Program, the City of Oxnard will work with the United States Bureau of Reclamation to prepare the necessary materials needed to enter into a cooperative agreement and to meet deadlines established for entering into a cooperative agreement.
3. The City of Oxnard will fund at least 50 percent of the project costs.
4. That the City Manager of the City of Oxnard is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 9th DAY OF JUNE, 2009, with the following vote:

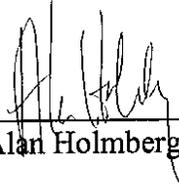
AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Thomas E. Holden, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Holmberg, City Attorney

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Martinez, City Clerk

Attachment No. 2  
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