



**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD MEETING
AGENDA ITEM
REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, March 09, 2022

SUBJECT

Resolution for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Grant Application – Advanced Water Purification Facility

BACKGROUND

EPWater is planning to submit a grant application due March 15, 2022, to pursue funding for final design, construction management services, equipment and construction of the Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF). The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is offering funding opportunity R22AS00115, “WaterSMART: Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects.” The WIIN Act program has received additional infrastructure funding from Congress and has increased its funding cap from \$20 million to \$30 million for projects that have a USBR-approved feasibility study. The program involves a competitive selection process, and projects can receive up to 25% of overall project costs up to the cap. For this grant cycle, successful applicants must use funds prior to September 2025. Additional grant applications are allowed for the same project until the cap is reached. Total cost of the AWPF is expected to be an estimated \$120 million with completion in 2026.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES SUPPORTED

Strengthen Stakeholder Partnerships

EVALUATION PROCESS

USBR requires a Public Service Board resolution authorizing the President/CEO to sign and submit the WaterSMART funding application.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

EPWater is requesting \$20,000,000 in funding from the USBR, which represents 25% of the estimated \$80,000,000 for costs that are in the CIP through FY24-25. EPWater is responsible for the 75% match in the estimated amount of \$60,000,000.

PROPOSED ACTION REQUESTED

Consider and approve a Resolution authorizing the President/CEO’s submission of a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation under Funding Opportunity R22AS00115 “WaterSMART Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects” in the estimated amount of \$20,000,000 in grant funding for final design, construction management services, equipment and construction costs for the Advanced Water Purification Facility in El Paso, Texas; authorize EPWater’s funding commitment to allocate an estimated amount of \$60,000,000; and further authorize the President/CEO to provide and sign any documents in connection with the grant application, grant agreement and acceptance of the funds for this project.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED

- Resolution

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT/CEO'S SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (USBR) UNDER FUNDING OPPORTUNITY R22AS00115 "WATERSMART: TITLE XVI WIIN ACT WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE PROJECTS" IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000,000 IN GRANT FUNDS, TO THE FINAL DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES, EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE ADVANCED WATER PURIFICATION FACILITY IN EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS, AND AUTHORIZE EL PASO WATER'S COMMITMENT TO ALLOCATE AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$60,000,000; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO ENTER INTO ANY RELATED AGREEMENT, AND PROVIDE AND SIGN ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board was established on May 22, 1952, by Ordinance No. 752 of the City of El Paso for the purpose of providing potable water and wastewater collection and treatment for the City of El Paso; and

WHEREAS, EPWater has historically worked with grant agencies to obtain funds for the research and implementation of water treatment, water conservation, water reuse and recycling, membrane treatment processes, and potable water and energy improvement projects to benefit the residents of the City and County of El Paso, to improve the quality and reliability of their water services, and to promote the conservation of water and energy within the service area of El Paso; and

WHEREAS, EPWater has historically applied for and received U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grant funds for numerous water resource, conservation, infrastructure construction, reverse osmosis, water treatment research, supply, monitoring, and reclaimed water projects; and

WHEREAS, USBR has released Funding Opportunity R22AS00115 "WATERSMART: Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects" and is soliciting eligible proposals for project funding, and USBR requires a resolution of this type for submittal of a formal application for such grant funds; and

WHEREAS, EPWater has determined that this Project, which involves final design, construction management services, equipment and construction of the Advanced Water Purification Facility meets the objectives and requirements outlined under the funding opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EL PASO WATER UTILITIES PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Resolution are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted by the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board (PSB) and made a part of this Resolution for all purposes.

Section 2. That the PSB, through EPWater's Government Affairs and Engineering divisions, has reviewed and supports EPWater's application to be submitted for Funding Opportunity R22AS00115 "WATERSMART: Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects".

Section 3. That the PSB hereby authorizes the President/CEO to sign any and all documents required for the Grant Application for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) funds under Funding Opportunity R22AS00115 “WaterSMART: Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects” in the amount of \$20,000,000 to obtain funding for final design, construction management services, equipment and construction of the Advanced Water Purification Facility in El Paso, El Paso County, Texas.

Section 4. That the PSB authorizes EPWater’s funding commitment to allocate an estimated amount of \$60,000,000 as contribution to the “WATERSMART: Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects”, if grant funds are awarded to EPWater by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation under Funding Opportunity R22AS00115.

Section 5. That the PSB agrees, if awarded, to work with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement and to conduct this project, if awarded, according to all of the water conservation, planning, environmental, engineering, and renewable energy reporting and accounting procedures required by the USBR.

PASSED AND APPROVED at the regular meeting of the Public Service Board, this 9th day of March 2022 at which meeting a quorum was present, held in accordance with the provisions of Texas Government Code, Sections 551.001, et. seq.

EL PASO WATER UTILITIES
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Kristina Mena, Chair

ATTEST:

Bryan Morris, Secretary-Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Daniel Ortiz
General Counsel

Arturo Duran
Chief Financial Officer