Attachment 14. Areas Affected by Project

City of Rialto

City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project

Areas affected by the Project include the City of Rialto's entire service area, which provides water and wastewater services primarily within the City of Rialto, serving 55,860 people in San Bernardino County, California. The City's service area is essentially the incorporated portion of the City of Rialto located between Interstate 10 and State Route 210.

The Project will expand the City of Rialto's resilience to drought and reduce dependency on imported water supplies by utilizing local impaired groundwater supplies, achieve strategic regional goals and objectives for improved water supply reliability to respond to impacts from drought and climate change. To deliver a significant, new, local supply of potable water, the Project includes equipping an existing well with an ion-exchange treatment system that would remove arsenic from the groundwater.

County: San Bernardino

State: California

City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project

Grant Applicant:



City of Rialto 150 S. Palm Avenue, Rialto, California, 92376

Project Manager: Thomas J. Crowley, P.E. Email: tjcrowley@rialtoca.gov Phone: (909) 820-8056 UEI: JSSRWCN1S4C7

Submittal Date: June 14, 2022

Submitted to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for FY 2023, NOFO No. R23AS00005

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Mandatory Federal Forms

The following forms were submitted electronically via grants.gov: SF- 424 Application for Federal Assistance, SF-424A Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs and Construction Programs, SF-424D Assurances – Construction Programs, SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, and Project Abstract Summary (OMB Form 4040-0019).

Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

Executive Summary

June 14, 2022, Mr. Thomas Crowley, P.E., Utilities Manager, City of Rialto (City, Rialto), San Bernardino County, California. The City is a Category A applicant.

Work Proposed: The proposed City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project (Project) will treat up to 2,750 acre feet per year of impaired groundwater to produce a new source of potable water supply for the City of Rialto. The Project will increase the City of Rialto's resilience to drought, reduce dependency on imported water supplies, and improve water supply reliability in response to drought and climate change impacts. To deliver a significant, new, and local supply of potable water, the Project includes equipping an existing well with an ion-exchange treatment system that would remove arsenic from the groundwater within the City of Rialto, in San Bernardino County, California. Specifically, the Project includes a two-vessel IX system lead/lag configuration, 1,700 linear feet of 12-inch pipeline to reach the distribution system, electrical equipment, well motor and pump equipment, chlorination system, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and security equipment, fencing, lighting, flush discharge basin, and miscellaneous site improvements. The City is the lead and sole agency for implementation of this Project. The City is experiencing extreme drought conditions, and the majority of California is experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions. The Project will treat groundwater from the Lytle Creek Basin (a subbasin of the San Bernardino Basin) within the Santa Ana River Watershed. The City 3A Groundwater Well has already been drilled and the well casing installed, facilitating immediate Project implementation upon award of funding, and providing critical drought relief. The City adopted the 2020 Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan (IRUWMP), a consolidated document that combines the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and the San Bernardino Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan. The IRUWMP is the primary drought plan that identifies and supports the Project, citing increased utilization of local water supplies, improved groundwater quality by treating water supply, and addressing climate change as key strategies to increase water supply reliability for the City and the Inland Empire region.

- Following the funding award announcement, the Project is anticipated to start construction in January 2024 with a 10-month duration and completion in October 2024.
- The Project is not located on a federal facility.

Project Location

The Project is located in the City of Rialto, within San Bernardino County, California at the base of the San Bernardino Mountains in the interior valley known as the San Bernardino Valley and within the Santa Ana River Watershed. The City of Rialto municipal water system provides potable, non-potable, and recycled water at retail to customers primarily within the City of Rialto and serves approximately one-half of the population of the City. Other areas of the City are served by two other agencies; however, the focus of this Project and application is only within the portion of the City served by the **City municipal system (Rialto Water District)**. The service area, shown in **Figure 1**, includes 12,058 municipal water service connections and a population of 55,860. The City's municipal water system obtains supplies from four adjudicated groundwater basins, surface water from canyon surface flows, emergency stand-by agreements, and recycled water. The San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District) monitors groundwater supplies and imports water through the State Water Project (SWP) for groundwater recharge and management, which draws water from the San Francisco-

San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Bay-Delta). Reducing water drawn from the Bay-Delta supports Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP). The City was incorporated in 1911, but can trace its roots to the 15th century when the Serrano Indians settled in the region.





As presented in **Figure 2**, the proposed Project is located in the City of Rialto, San Bernardino County, California, north of East Baseline Road, east of Pepper Avenue, and west of North Lassen Street. The approximate Project latitude and longitude are 34.12473 N, -117.34661 W. Lytle Creek lies approximately 1,500 feet east of the existing City 3A Groundwater Well.





Technical Project Description

To provide up to 2,750 acre feet per year (AFY) of a new, local supply of potable water, the Project includes equipping an <u>existing well</u> with an ion-exchange treatment system that would remove arsenic from groundwater. The Project includes a two-vessel IX system lead/lag configuration, 1,700 linear feet of 12-inch pipeline to reach the distribution system, electrical equipment, well motor and pump equipment, chlorination system, SCADA and security equipment, fencing, lighting, flush discharge basin, and miscellaneous site improvements.

The City's municipal water system obtains supplies from four adjudicated groundwater basins, canyon surface flows, emergency stand-by agreements, and recycled water. The Project will provide up to 2,750 AFY of treated groundwater from the Lytle Creek Basin, a subbasin of the San Bernardino Basin (SBB), which is within the City's available groundwater rights. The well was drilled and the well casing installed in 2010, facilitating immediate Project implementation upon award of funding. Pumping tests were also completed in 2010, and analyses of the well water detected arsenic at a concentration of 9.3 micrograms per Liter (μ g/L). Although this value is below the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water (DDW) Primary Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 μ g/L for this constituent, it exceeds the Detection Limit for Reporting of 2 μ g/L and the Public Health Goal of 0.004 μ g/L. Therefore, in 2015, the City conducted a series of tests to

determine if they could pump from different parts of the aquifer to avoid having to equip the well with arsenic treatment. However, testing revealed that pumping from different portions of the aquifer was not possible and treatment would be required. The Project responds to the need to treat the groundwater, and will accomplish this by equipping the well and treating the groundwater to a usable drinking water quality with the new treatment facility.

Performance Measures

 Table 1 below identifies Project benefits and performance measures through its anticipated 50-year life.

Benefit	Target	Measurement Tools and Methods
New/Additional Water	Up to 2,750 AFY	Measuring water quantity delivered via flow meters near
Supplies Delivered		the groundwater treatment facility.
Energy Savings - Reduce Amount of Electrical Energy Required to Supply Water Demands	From Water Better Managed 5,560,500 kWh/year (2,750 AFY)	Measuring water quantity delivered via flow meters and equate to the offset in energy required to transfer an equal quantity of water to the region for groundwater recharge. Water savings converted to energy savings using conversion of 3,000 kWh/AF of imported water.
Carbon Emissions Savings - Climate Change Impacts	1,380 tons of CO ₂ /year from energy savings	Confirm energy savings Project Performance Measure and convert to carbon emissions using CO ₂ emissions= 0.49 lb. of CO ₂ /kWh.

Table 1	Proie	ect Bene	fits and	Performance	Measures
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Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criterion A - Project Benefits

The City is proposing the Project as part of its planning for long-term resilience to drought by: 1) improving infrastructure for enhanced water reliability and flexibility in times of drought; 2) providing up to 2,750 AFY of local groundwater supply; 3) reduced energy use and carbon emissions savings as a result of importing less water; and 4) benefitting fish, wildlife, and the environment by allowing more imported water to stay at its source to support Bay-Delta and Colorado River habitats. The Project will provide these benefits for 50 years.

Building Long-Term Resilience to Drought & Number of Years Benefits Will Be Provided. The Project will build long-term resilience to drought by increasing local potable water supplies by up to 2,750 AFY, saving 5,560,500 kWh/year in energy, and 1,380 tons of CO₂, annually, year-round, for the approximately 50-year Project life. These benefits are quantified in **Table 1** above. Compared to imported water, local potable water is a more reliable and environmentally-friendly supply because it doesn't have to be transported. The Project will utilize water that would otherwise be unavailable to the City due to arsenic contamination in groundwater. The region's management strategy of replenishing the basins during wet years when water is available has been effective, but ongoing drought conditions compel the City to provide arsenic treatment to local groundwater to increase local water supply and enhance water reliability. The Project is immediately needed to address drought impacts because the City relies on imported water from the SWP, which draws water from the Bay-Delta to replenish some of the regional groundwater basins that supply the City's (and region's) potable water. Current drought conditions make this imported water supply unreliable. This Project will increase local drinking water supply availability and provide resiliency to community water supplies threatened by drought.

Additional Water Supplies Made Available & Estimated Quantity of Additional Supply from the Project. The Project will make an additional 2,750 AFY of potable water available, and therefore make the same amount of imported potable water supply available to the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) and the SWP since the water will be sourced locally instead of imported. This quantity was calculated based on the capacity of the well in gallons per minute per pumping tests documented in a Technical Memorandum (Richard C. Slade & Associates Consulting Groundwater Geologists, 2015). The treatment facility will be sized to meet the flow requirements of City 3A Groundwater Well. This supply is anticipated to be representative of the average benefit over 10 years including dry years. This locally-sourced water will be integrated into the City's existing potable water system.

o Percentage of Total Water Supply Represented by Additional Water Supply. The additional local water supply produced by the Project from an underutilized groundwater basin will provide nearly 31% of the City's current potable water demand (2,750 AFY produced / 8,929 AFY demand in 2020 = 0.31). By generating up to 2,750 AFY of potable water, the Project will immediately reduce demand on imported water supplies from the Bay-Delta, a needed measure for increasing local and statewide water reliability during the current severe to extreme drought conditions. Given the increasing costs of imported water and the drought-related supply challenges the West constantly faces, developing additional local sources is critical for meeting water supply demands.

o Degree/Significance of the Benefits Associated with the Additional Water Supplies – Increased Reliability of Water Supplies. The Project benefits are significant because the overall project will reduce imported water demand and provide a critical local water supply in the event the City's imported water supply is cut off due to prolonged drought, earthquake, or other catastrophic event. As detailed above, 2,750 AFY represents 31% of the City's current total potable water supply. The City 3A Groundwater Well will be used as a primary supply source. In 2020, the City's water supply consisted of 7,346 AFY of groundwater, 1,583 AFY of surface water (Lytle Creek), and 0 AFY recycled water, for a total of 8,929 AFY of actual water supply. This amounts to groundwater providing approximately 82% of the City's total water supply, with SWP water used to replenish the groundwater basins in active recharge areas. Realizing the increasing vulnerability of its water supply, the City's planning documents include a goal to reduce dependency on imported water supply by 20%. The Project will yield real water supply benefits that contribute to achieving this goal by producing local potable water.

Improve the Management of Water Supplies.

o Increased Efficiency or Operational flexibility. The Project gives the City flexibility to supply local groundwater from the City 3A Groundwater Well in place of imported water from hundreds of miles away, thereby increasing efficiency.

o Estimated Quantity of Water Better Managed. Up to 2,750 AFY of water will be better managed as a result of the Project. These benefits will be realized annually for a 10-year average annual benefit of the same amount, 2,750 AFY. Over a 10-year period, the Project savings will be a cumulative 27,500 AF.

o Percentage of Total Water Supply the Water Better Managed Represents. As detailed above, 2,750 AFY represents 31% of the City's current total potable water supply.

o Quantitative Degree/Significance of Anticipated Water Management Benefits. The Project will provide an additional 2,750 AFY of potable water and is the first Project to be implemented to help the City meet its water reliability goal of reducing dependency on imported water by 20,000 AFY. The distribution of locallyproduced water in place of imported water will also conserve energy and lower the City's carbon footprint.

o New Information Made Available to Water Managers. The Project will generate a new source of water, and could potentially make new information available in terms of arsenic treatment data to water managers.

Wells – Additional Information

This Project is adding a new arsenic treatment facility to an <u>existing well to prevent water supply shortages due</u> to drought and to protect public health from arsenic contamination; the Project does not support population

growth or increased irrigation demands.

Estimated Well Capacity. What is the estimated capacity of the new well(s), and how was the estimate calculated? The capacity of the existing well (2,750 AFY) was estimated using test data from pumping tests performed and summarized in a Technical Memorandum (Richard C. Slade & Associates Consulting Groundwater Geologists, 2015).

Planned Water Extraction and Groundwater Governance Structures. How much water do you plan to extract through the well(s), and how does this fit within state or local laws, ordinances, or other groundwater governance structures? The City plans to pump up to 2,750 AFY of water from the basin for treatment at the proposed facility. The City's 1924 judgement allows 3,053 AFY of water rights to be pumped from Well 3A in Lytle Creek Basin. Appendix A includes the Slade Report (pages 1-34) that includes pumping tests. Regional agencies have a long history of working together to coordinate management of the region's water resources, evidence of which can be seen in the various legal agreements related to surface water diversions, groundwater supply, water quality, and habitat preservation. The Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC) was formed through the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning process to facilitate updates and implementation of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed IRWM Plan (IRWM Plan). The region has a distributed governance structure consisting of the BTAC, whose members provide recommendations to their respective governing bodies who then make decisions regarding water resources planning and projects in the region.

Valley District is responsible for long-range water supply management, including importing supplemental SWP water, and is responsible for storage management of most of the groundwater basins within its boundaries and for groundwater extraction over the amount specified in the Orange County and Western Judgments explained below. Valley District has specific responsibilities for monitoring groundwater supplies in the SBB and Rialto-Colton Subbasin. In the 1960s, dry conditions resulted in the over-commitment of water resources in the Santa Ana River Watershed which led to lawsuits between water users in the upper and lower watersheds regarding both surface flows and groundwater. The lawsuits culminated in 1969 in the Orange County and Western Judgments. Under the terms of the judgments, Valley District became responsible for providing a portion of the specified Santa Ana River base flow to Orange County and for replenishing the SBB under certain conditions. If the conditions of either judgment are not met by the natural water supply, including new conservation, Valley District is required to deliver supplemental water to offset the deficiency. The judgments resolved the major water rights issues and established specific objectives for the management of the groundwater basins. Court-appointed Watermaster committees administer both Judgments; as a member of the Watermaster committees, Valley District is directly responsible for ensuring that groundwater and surface water resources are effectively managed for the benefit of the region.

Primary Supply Source. Will the well be used as a primary supply or supplemental supply when there is a lack of surface supplies? The City 3A Groundwater Well will be used as a primary supply source. The City's water supply consists mostly of groundwater, combined with some surface water and recycled water. In 2020, the City's water supply consisted of 7,346 AFY of groundwater, 1,583 AFY of surface water (Lytle Creek), and 0 AFY recycled water, for a total of 8,929 AFY of actual water supply. This amounts to groundwater providing approximately 82% of the City's total water supply, with SWP water used to replenish the groundwater basins in active recharge areas.

Aquifer Information and Groundwater Recharge Program. Does the applicant participate in an active recharge program contributing to groundwater sustainability? A map of the existing City 3A Groundwater Well location is provided in Figure 2. City Wells 3, 5, and 6 exist in the Project area; however, these wells are non-operational and planned to be abandoned. A well diagram of the existing City 3A Groundwater Well is presented in Appendix A. The City 3A Groundwater Well is in the Lytle Creek Groundwater Basin, which is part of the SBB. Lytle Creek lies approximately 1,500 feet east of the existing City 3A Groundwater Well. The Lytle Creek Basin has an estimated long-term water supply that varies from 1,700 to 5,000 AFY, sufficient to supply the Project with sustainable withdrawal from this basin. Rialto needs a new source of groundwater in this area with an active groundwater management recharge program. The City is reliant on groundwater for its potable supply and on imported water to recharge the groundwater basins to meet its demands. Valley District has

developed a successful "cooperative recharge program" to help replenish groundwater, using both SWP water and local runoff. The SBB Groundwater Council's regional groundwater management approach is to recharge their basins with SWP water whenever water supplies are available in wet years, so that when water supplies are restricted, water is still available; this strategy has historically worked well to allow basin withdrawal. As part of the SBB, the Lytle Creek Basin has an active groundwater management recharge program implemented by the SBB Groundwater Council.

Groundwater Monitoring Plan to Avoid significant Adverse Impacts.

Equipping and pumping the existing City 3A Groundwater Well in the Lytle Creek Basin with treatment provides needed reliability as that basin is recharged, providing an immediate additional source of local water, and implements a part of the City's longer-term strategy to diversify and increase groundwater storage. The Project's new groundwater treatment system at the existing well site will access available groundwater supply within the City's adjudicated rights. The area is not currently experiencing aquifer overdraft or land subsidence near this existing well location, and previous wells in the area are not in use and are planned to be abandoned.

Valley District is directly responsible for ensuring that groundwater and surface water resources are effectively managed for the benefit of the region. Per the 2020 Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan (2020 IRUWMP), a consolidated document that combines the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and the San Bernardino Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan, an extensive network of data collection and monitoring is already in place in the Region, including monitoring conducted by the City. 2020 IRUWMP Section 1, Page 8-14 notes that "Groundwater monitoring is in place for measuring groundwater production, water quality, and water levels representative of the various subbasins." A monitoring plan has been developed for the region as a component of the 2020 IRUWMP to formalize and standardize data collection procedures that focus on groundwater and surface water. Monitoring triggers for mitigation actions include groundwater levels decline. Section 1, Page 8-9 of 2020 IRUWMP highlights one benefit of the plan as "Continued commitment to understanding of the region's water resources, including focused regional monitoring to ensure groundwater is used in a sustainable manner."

Evaluation Criterion B – Drought Planning and Preparedness

Copy of Applicable Drought Plan, or Sections of the Plan, Appended to Application. The City is currently preparing a Drought Contingency Plan funded in part by Reclamation; awarded in 2017 and agreement signed in 2019. The most relevant completed drought planning document is the adopted 2020 IRUWMP, which can be accessed online under "Rialto City Of" at (<u>https://wuedata.water.ca.gov/uwmp_plans.asp?cmd=2020</u>). This IRUWMP is among the first of its kind, setting a standard for integrated water resources planning and reporting in California. The Plan includes a City of Rialto Chapter that provides service area information, past water use, projections of population, demand, and supply for a 25-year planning period, an evaluation of water supply reliability and drought risk assessment, a description of demand management measures and a summary of the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The IRUWMP is divided into parts as follows: Part 1 includes requirements of the IRWM Planning Act and the UWMP Act; Part 2 includes information for the 11 local agencies utilizing the IRUWMP; Part 3 includes applicable regional supporting information and the IRUWMP project list; and Part 4 includes supporting documents or each agency, including their Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Key information for the City of Rialto is presented in Part 2, Chapter 5, and Part 4, Appendix E. The Project is supported by this drought planning document; pages referenced below identifying specific ties to drought resiliency planning and preparedness are included in **Appendix B** of this application.

Plan Addresses Drought.

The 2020 IRUWMP serves as a regional drought plan as demonstrated by its water management goals, objectives, and strategies presented in Part 1, Chapter 6, Page 6-17.

o Drought Plan Elements

Yes, the 2020 IRUWMP (drought plan) contains drought focused elements including a system for drought

monitoring, sector vulnerability assessments related to drought, prioritized mitigation actions, and response actions that correlate to different stages of drought. In Part 4 Appendix E, Section 9.0 Monitoring and Reporting describes preparation of monthly production reports that are reviewed and compared to production reports and pumping statistics from prior months and the same period of the prior year. Under shortage and drought conditions, these production reports could be prepared as often as daily. Part 1 Chapter 6, Section 6.2.8 (Page 6-12) references a vulnerability assessment to identify the region's water resources due to climate change. The primary concerns include reliance on imported water, wildfires that affect water quality, and threatened beneficial use of water bodies. Specific climate change vulnerabilities identified for the region include: 1) Uncertainty around the Bay-Delta make imported supplies less reliable; 2) Existing groundwater capture facilities may not have the capacity or operational ability to capture less frequent, but more intense storm events; 3) More frequent drought periods will result in more frequent and intense wildfires, reducing water quality and the ability to capture storm flows; 4) Increased surface water temperatures will degrade water quality and negatively impact aquatic life; 5) Increased temperatures resulting in increased demand for landscape irrigation; and 6) Decreased runoff and subsurface flows from the mountain front areas as the result of more frequent and severe droughts. Part 1, Chapter 5, Section 5.1 presents a study identifying vulnerabilities in demands and supplies according to various factors, including climate change. Rialto's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) is a strategic plan that Rialto uses to prepare for and respond to foreseeable and unforeseeable water shortages and is summarized in Part 2, Chapter 5, Section 5.7 (Pages 5-26 to 5-27) and the WSCP is presented as a standalone document in Part 4 Appendix E-9 of the 2020 IRUWMP.

o Stakeholder Collaboration to Develop Drought Plan.

The 2020 IRUWMP was developed through an extensive public outreach and involvement process (Part 1 Chapter 1, Section 1.3, Pages 1-7 through 1-12), including stakeholder workshops, public meetings, email, and website communication. Table 1-2 (Page 1-12) in the IRUWMP describes the regional participation during IRUWMP development and updates with regional stakeholders. This process included developing the objectives and strategies that address drought conditions. The 2020 IRUWMP was developed through a collaborative process of member agencies and other local stakeholders, including non-profits, tribal representatives, disadvantaged community (DAC) members, and general public. IRUWMP Section 1.3.4 (Page 1-10) provides additional information regarding focused outreach to DACs and Tribes.

o Climate Change Impacts to Water Resources or Drought in Drought Plan.

Part 1, Chapter 2, Section 2.6.2 (Page 2-33) describes the potential effects of climate change, including increases in extreme temperature, and increases in dry and wet precipitation extremes. The drought vulnerability assessment and vulnerabilities are discussed above under "Drought Plan Elements". The drought plan portion of the IRUWMP considers climate change impacts to water resources and drought in the IRUWMP goals, specifically in Goal 1 – Improve Water Supply Reliability and in Goal 5 – Address Climate Change through Adaptation and Mitigation (Part 1, Chapter 6, Section 6.3, Page 6-15). The proposed Project implements multiple strategies to address climate change.

Proposed Project Supported by an Existing Drought Plan.

The Project is included in the 2020 IRUWMP Project List (Part 3, Appendix G) as a project supported by and that implements the goals, objectives, and strategies of the IRUWMP. Valley District maintains the project list on behalf of the BTAC and periodically posts the latest version to the Valley District website for public viewing. An excerpt from the <u>current</u> project list including the Project is presented in **Appendix B** of this application.

o Proposed Project Identified as a Potential Mitigation or Response Action.

IRUWMP Part 3, Appendix G discusses the Project as a drought response action by the following, "The IRWM Plan Project List includes infrastructure improvements, recharge projects, water recycling projects, storage projects, and water use efficiency programs planned for the region. These projects generate not only drought year water supply, but "regular year" water supply as well. The proposed Project is included in the IRUWMP Project List and serves a drought response action.

City of Rialto – Funding Group II Request City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project

o Proposed Project Implements a Goal or Need Identified in the Drought Plan.

The Project implements the 2020 IRUWMP goals to Improve Water Supply Reliability, Improve Water Quality, and Address Climate Change through Adaptation and Mitigation, and helps achieve several related objectives (Part 1, Chapter 6, Page 6-17). Objective 1a: "Increase utilization of local supplies by 20,000 AFY" is addressed by treating groundwater from a basin not currently utilized due to poor water quality to develop local groundwater supplies. Objective 1d: "Improve system resiliency and the ability to respond to emergency supply interruptions by increasing back-up facilities, increasing interties, adding redundant power sources and treatment facilities" is addressed by constructing the new treatment facility. Objective 1e: "Continue to ensure equitable access to clean drinking water for all communities" is addressed by providing additional reliability for drinking water supplies through development of a local water source that will provide the service area, including underrepresented communities, a less expensive option for potable water than water imported from a distant source. Objective 5a: "Identify projects to address or manage climate change impacts" is addressed by providing up to 2,750 AFY of a new local water supply to ensure water supply reliability for humans and wildlife. Objective 5b: "Implement 4 projects to reduce or offset energy consumption or reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with water and wastewater systems" is addressed by reducing energy consumption and GHG emissions.

o How the Proposed Project is Prioritized in the Referenced Drought Plan.

The proposed Project is listed in the IRUWMP Project List (Part 3, Appendix G) as a priority project that is supported by and implements the goals, objectives, and strategies of the IRUWMP.

Evaluation Criterion C – Sustainability and Supplemental Benefits

1. Climate Change: Executive Order (EO) 14008 emphasizes the need to prioritize and take robust actions to reduce climate pollution, increase resilience to the impacts of climate change, protect public health, and conserve our lands, waters, oceans, and biodiversity.

Contributions to Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency. The proposed Project includes building a treatment facility to use an existing well and impacted groundwater supplies. The Project serves as a strategy on the part of the City to adapt to climate change conditions by leveraging a new source of water supply to increase local water supply reliability and reduce the City's dependence on imported water, thereby conserving potable water in other parts of the state for highest beneficial uses. The new local supply will be produced from treated groundwater available in the basin, thereby providing drought resiliency.

Other Natural Hazard Risk Reductions – Wildfires. The Project provides a new local source of water that is available to combat the increasing threat, duration, size and severity of wildfires caused by climate change and drought causing dry vegetation. The City's potable water distribution system includes fire hydrants and five reservoirs that hold up to 27 million gallons of water that can be used for fire suppression in its service area. The proposed Project will provide up to 2,750 AFY of potable water available for fire suppression.

Community Climate Resilience by Reducing Energy Needed to Manage Water. The Project reduces the energy needed to manage water by saving 5,560,500 kWh/year and complements several projects that reduce energy needs regionally. Southern California, including the Inland Empire region, receives imported water via the SWP to recharge groundwater basins, a conveyance process that requires a large amount of energy. By producing water locally rather than importing water, the proposed Project will significantly reduce the amount of energy used to deliver water. The power required to import 1 AF of water is approximately 3,000 kWh/AF for SWP water, while the power required to produce the treated water from the City 3A Groundwater Well is 978 kWh/AF. By reducing the delivery of energy-intensive imported water, the Project provides a net reduction in energy use and GHG emissions. Annual Project energy savings are estimated to be 5,560,500 kWh/year: (3,000 kWh/AF – 978 kWh/AF) x 2,750 AFY Project water = 5,560,500 KWh/year.

Reducing Climate Air Pollution. The Project will reduce carbon dioxide (greenhouse gases) by using less energy to produce recycled water locally in place of importing water from the CRA and SWP. The Project mitigates air pollution by reducing the energy used and associated GHG generated to convey imported water to the City's

service area. Carbon emission estimates of 0.4965 lb. of CO₂/kWh based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 9th edition of eGRID, "Year 2010 eGRID Subregion Emissions - Greenhouse Gases" were used to calculate emissions saved as follows: 0.4965 lb. of CO₂/kWh * 5,560,500 kWh/year = 2,760,788 lbs. = 1,380 tons of CO₂ savings per year.

Establishing and Using a Renewable Energy Source. The proposed Project will not establish or use a renewable energy source. The City is a proponent of renewable energy, and has installed solar panels at more than 15 prominent City facilities, including the Civic Center, Community Center, fire stations, City offices, Metrolink Depot, Public Library, Raquet & Fitness Center, and Senior Center, producing more than 2,000,000 kWh of electricity annually. The City will soon produce additional renewable energy with the planned installation of a microgrid powered through a unique combination of biogas cogeneration, solar power and backup battery storage to supply electricity for the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sequestering Carbon. The Project does not include sequestering carbon in soils, grasses, trees, and other vegetation.

Conservation or Management Component Protecting Water Supplies. The Project has a management component that serves to protect water supplies and associated uses. The Project implements the regional climate change action plan, adopted by the City, and is listed in Chapter 6 of the 2020 IRUWMP as a measure to mitigate climate change impacts for the region. As described in the 2020 IRUWMP, Section 6.2.8 Climate Change Resilience references a climate change vulnerability assessment per the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). IRUWMP Pages 6-12 through 6-25 describe specific regional climate change vulnerabilities, and Section 6.3 Water Management Goals and Objectives. Expanding utilization of local potable water service by 20,000 AFY is identified as a climate change adaptation strategy under Goal #1 – Improve Water Supply Reliability, Objective 1b. Section 6.4 presents Water Resource Management Strategies including those for climate change adaptation.

Contributions to Climate Change Resiliency. The Project would contribute to climate change resiliency by **expanding the City's locally controlled water supply portfolio**, combining existing water use efficiency programs, recycling, stormwater recharge, and local supplies to reduce dependence on imported water supplies. Should an earthquake, wildfire, system shutdown, or other event disrupt the delivery of imported water to the area, the Project's potable water would provide additional water supplies for the City (and region).

Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities: EO 14008 and EO 13985 affirm the advancement of environmental justice and equity for all through the development and funding of programs to invest in disadvantaged or underserved communities.

Benefits to a Disadvantaged or Historically Underserved Communities. The Project is needed to ensure DACs have a reliable, affordable potable water supply. DWR defines DACs as census geographies with an annual median household income (MHI) less than 80% of the statewide annual MHI. Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs) are census geographies having less than 60% of the Statewide annual MHI. DACs reside in the City's service area as shown in brown in **Figure 3**. The Project will provide a more reliable water source to DACs. From a social equality and environmental justice perspective, the Project will increase water supply reliability by providing new potable water supply to low income and minority communities. Providing high quality and reliable water supply to DACs is an objective of the City and other agencies throughout the region. The benefit of local water production will be realized year-round, for the 50-year life of the Project. The energy required to deliver up to 2,750 AFY of imported water to the City is saved, which lessens the environmental impacts from greenhouse gases and climate change and conserves energy for the City's customers, including DACs.

Meeting Disadvantaged Community State Criteria. DACs within the City's service area are noted in the City's 2020 UWMP within the 2020 IRWUMP (Part 2, Chapter 5) with identification of lower-income single- and multi-family residential households to assist the City in providing water service to these households. According to the City's 2020 UWMP, the City of Rialto includes DACs; it is estimated that about 41% of all Rialto households qualify as lower income. The City's 2020 UWMP total water use projections include projections for single-family and multi-family residential housing for lower-income and affordable households using the 41% level of

lower-income households, consistent with the City's 2010 General Plan Housing Element. This assists the City to grant priority for providing water service to lower-income households.

The community is disproportionally subject to environmental stressors, cumulative impacts, and other impacts of climate change. The average Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores, as defined by California Environmental Protection Agency and their Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, are multiplied together to produce an overall CalEnviroScreen score. The City of Rialto shows an overall CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Percentile of 84 and a Pollution Burden Percentile of 59. The results for each indicator (100 being the maximum percentile and highest impacts) represent the percentile ranking of census tract 6071003804 (the Project location) relative to other census tracts.



Figure 3. Disadvantaged Communities in the Project Vicinity

Meeting the Underserved Community Definition. The term "underserved communities" refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, who have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. In the context of the Federal workforce, this term includes individuals who belong to communities of color, such as Black and African American, Hispanic and Latino, Native American, Alaska Native and Indigenous, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and North African persons. The 2020 United States Census reported that the racial makeup of the City of Rialto was 52.4% White, 12.9% African American, 0.6% Native American, 2.3% Asian, 0.0% Pacific Islander, 9.2% from other races, 11.3% from two or more races, and 75.2% Hispanic or Latino of any race. Therefore, implementation of the Project throughout the City's service area will conserve water for the benefit of members of underserved communities as identified in the 2020 U.S. Census for the City of Rialto. The Project benefits these communities by ensuring affordable and high-quality water is served to the communities throughout the service area.

2. Tribal Benefits: The Department of the Interior is committed to strengthening tribal sovereignty and the fulfillment of Federal tribal trust responsibilities.

Supporting Tribal Resilience to Climate Change and Drought Impacts. The Project will directly benefit Tribes in the Santa Ana River Watershed. Reclamation was a key partner in developing the Summary Report for the Santa Ana Watershed Basin Study (Reclamation, 2013), along with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), and members of the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Committee. The City of Rialto is a member agency of Valley District, which is a member of SAWPA, and is an active member of several OWOW Committees and Task Forces. Chapter 6 of the Summary Report discussed tribal communities in the Watershed, and reducing demand on imported potable supplies ensures local groundwater supply reliability for these tribal

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communities. **Figure 4** below identifies the locations of tribal reservations in the watershed. Statewide, the Project may also help Reclamation meet trust responsibilities in the SWP area since the Project will reduce demand on this source. Any increase in water supply sustainability and greater availability in overall water supply resulting from local supply development would help Reclamation meet the federal Indian trust responsibility, a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation on the part of the U.S. to protect tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, and Tribe resources.



Figure 4. Tribal Reservations in the Santa Ana River Watershed

Reclamation was a key partner in developing the Overview of Disadvantaged Communities and Native American Tribes in the Santa Ana River Watershed (Reclamation, August 2013), along with SAWPA, and members of the OWOW Committee. The City of Rialto participated in the Study development, which analyzed DACs and Tribes in the Santa Ana River Watershed, and the connection with water resources and water quality. Areas of water contamination were identified near tribal communities. The goal of the Study is to help protect the quantity and quality of water resources for Tribes. The Project will directly benefit the following tribes in the Santa Ana River Watershed by extracting and treating existing impacted groundwater supplies: Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians. Figure 5 on the following page identifies the locations of DACs, tribal communities and known contaminant plumes.

Statewide, the Project will reduce demands on imported supply from the Bay-Delta by up to 2,750 AFY, as the City relies on imported SWP water via Valley District, which originates from the Bay-Delta to replenish groundwater basins, making more water available for tribes that rely on the SWP as a source of water. The Project's imported water savings translate to more water remaining in the fragile Bay-Delta systems.

Supporting Reclamation's Tribal Trust Responsibilities. The proposed Project directly supports Reclamation's current efforts, including the May 20, 2019 signing of a completed drought contingency plan for the Colorado River basin. The plan is designed to reduce risks from ongoing drought or supply line interruptions

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and protect the most important water source in the western U.S. by reducing the amount of water imported, this water, in effect, remains in the Colorado River basin from which it originates or is made available to meet demands in other areas of the state. Any increase in water reliability and greater availability in overall water supply resulting from local water production efforts would also help Reclamation in meeting the federal Indian trust responsibility, a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation on the part of the U.S. to protect tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, and resources.





3. Environmental Benefits: Drought resiliency projects provide environmental benefits in addition to water supply reliability benefits for other users. Ecological resiliency is crucial to sustain ecosystems that can respond to and recover from external stressors resulting from climate change and drought.

Improving Ecological Resiliency. The Project improves ecological resiliency to climate change by decreasing demand on imported water from the Bay-Delta. The City's water supply consists mostly of groundwater, which is recharged with SWP water any time water allocations are available due to the high variability of available Bay-Delta water supply. As the Project seeks to offset imported water deliveries to the City by up to 2,750 AFY, benefits also include alleviating stress on the Bay-Delta habitat. Reducing water supplies received from the Bay-Delta limits ecological impacts of importing water. More water remaining in the Bay-Delta benefits the CVP and the SWP. The CVP reduces flood risk for the Central Valley, and supplies valley domestic and industrial water. The SWP provides a water supply and delivery system to distribute water across California. Both the CVP and SWP rely on water supply in the Bay-Delta. Reclamation and the California DWR coordinate on the Bay-Delta water balance for uses in the SWP and CVP. Therefore, the CVP benefits from more water remaining in the Bay-Delta and SWP systems.

Climate change is affecting supply and demand as increasing temperatures increase evapotranspiration from vegetation along with an increase in water loss due to evaporation in reservoirs. Therefore, climate change is reducing the available amount of supply from the Bay-Delta, causing imbalances between increasing demands from rapid growth and decreasing supplies. Imported water from the Bay-Delta is used to recharge groundwater

basins that supply a majority of the City's water to its service area. However, the location of City Well 3A is in Lytle Creek, which receives natural recharge form surface water. To meet demand during drought years, the City relies on imported water (Upper Santa Ana River IRWM Plan, 2015, page ES-2) via Valley District's contract with SWP water. Project implementation will reduce this demand and allow more water to remain in the Bay-Delta to support the 29 known species of fish that once populated the estuary. Currently, 12 of those fish species are considered gone or threatened by extinction. The Bay-Delta is also home to the Delta Smelt, which is a protected species. The species' habitat, life cycle, and reproduction rates are adversely affected by water imported via the SWP. The Delta Smelt population does better when outflow is allowed to flow downstream and create a nursery habitat for Delta Smelt in Suisun Bay. With a reduction in this imported water demand, the impact on the Delta Smelt, salmon and other species impacted by pumping activities, will be alleviated to the Project extent.

The Project is located in Lytle Creek Groundwater Basin in the Upper Santa Ana River IRWM Region in San Bernardino County, an area currently suffering from drought. Lytle Creek is one of the largest tributaries of the Santa Ana River and the limited surface water supplies can severely impact downstream Santa Ana River ecosystems. The Santa Ana River Watershed Basin Study (Reclamation, 2013) identified that ecosystem habitat is threatened by climate change. In addition, the IRWM agencies in the Upper Santa Ana River Region identified the following climate change vulnerabilities: additional imported water supply uncertainty; water quality impacts due to more frequent and intense wildfires; degraded water quality and aquatic habitat impacts due to higher temperatures; and increased irrigation demand due to higher temperatures (Upper Santa Ana River IRWM Plan, 2015, page ES-3). The Project will protect local and statewide ecology, and allow the City to adapt to environmental changes, including drought conditions impacting the water supply.

Supporting Endangered/threatened Species. The Project provides environmental benefits and improves the status of state listed species by making more water available in the Bay-Delta and Santa Ana River to support their habitats. The City primarily draws groundwater for their water supply, and as a result, Valley District imports water from the SWP for groundwater basin recharge and management. However, City Well 3A is in Lytle Creek Basin that is recharged by natural surface flows. The City's 1924 judgement allows 3,053 AFY of water rights to be pumped from Well 3A in Lytle Creek. As the Project seeks to offset imported water deliveries to the region by up to 2,750 AFY, benefits also include alleviating stress on the Bay-Delta habitat. In the last five years, between 23,504 AFY and 78,396 AFY of imported water was moved from the northern California Bay-Delta area through the SWP for groundwater basin recharge and management to meet the region's demand for water. Rationing water supplies received from the Bay-Delta helps limit the ecological impact of importing water. Twenty-nine known species of fish once populated the estuary, and currently 12 of those species are considered gone or threatened by extinction. The Bay-Delta is also home to the Delta Smelt, which is a protected species through a 2007 court order. The Delta Smelt are endemic to the upper Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary of California, and are threatened with extinction due to anthropogenic alterations to their ecosystem, including urbanization, nonnative species, water diversions, contaminants, and the conversion of complex tidal habitats to leveed channels. The Delta Smelt species is subject to a recovery plan under the Endangered Species Act, and was included in the Recovery Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Native Fishes initially approved in November 1996. Efforts to protect the endangered fish from further decline have focused on limiting or modifying the large-scale pumping activities of state and federal water projects at the southern end of the estuary. However, these efforts have not prevented the species from becoming functionally extinct in the wild. They were listed as threatened by both federal and state governments in 1993, and sustained record-low abundance indices prompted their listing as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act in 2010. Any reduction in water use from the SWP for this region has a positive impact on the species in and around the Bay-Delta. With a reduction in imported water demand as a result of the Project, the impact on the Delta Smelt, salmon, and other state listed species impacted by pumping activities will be alleviated.

4. Other Benefits: Will the project address water sustainability in other ways not described above?

Assisting States and Water Users to Comply with Interstate Compacts. The City relies on imported water from the SWP (Bay-Delta) to recharge its groundwater basins via Valley District who is a SWP contractor. Southern California relies heavily on the imported water from the SWP and CRA. By producing 2,750 AFY of

water locally, the Project reduces the demand on SWP water and makes more water available in the Bay-Delta. This indirectly reduces demand on the Colorado River, as half the state of California relies on the CRA for water supply. A decrease in demand in one source of imported water supply positively impacts the other source since the SWP and CRA are the two primary sources of potable water for Southern California. The Colorado River Interstate Water Compact of 1922 was an agreement among several western states that allocated water rights to particular bodies of water to the pact states. The purpose of the compact was to provide equitable division and apportionment of the use of the water of the Colorado River System; establish the relative importance of the different beneficial uses of water; to promote interstate comity; remove causes of present and future controversies; source the expeditious agriculture and industrial development of the Colorado River Basin, the storage of its waters; and the protection of life and property from floods. The compact lives on today and any reduction in demand on the SWP or CRA helps California and other states in the compact comply with their water rights agreement.

Project benefits to multiple sectors and/or users (e.g., agriculture, municipal and industrial, environmental, recreation, or others). The Project will benefit environmental and recreational sectors through local water production and improvements to groundwater quality in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed, which contains extraordinary natural resources, including the San Bernardino National Forest, which serves as the headwaters for the Santa Ana River. Downstream, the Santa Ana River and its tributaries provide habitat to riparian and aquatic species, and provide connectivity to upland habitats. The scrub, woodland, and riparian habitats in the Region support innumerable species, including species of concern such as the San Bernardino kangaroo rat, Santa Ana River wooly star, and Slender-Horned spine flower. The importance of the Region's habitats is underscored by the multiple environmental and ecological management plans currently in place, including the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, Upper Santa Ana Wash Land Management and Habitat Conservation Plan, and Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan. In addition to serving as habitat, these areas provide valuable open space and recreational areas for the residents of and visitors to the Region.

Project Benefits to a Larger Initiative to Address Sustainability. The Project will benefit larger water reliability initiatives to support Valley District's water reliability plans to reduce demand on the SWP. Potable water production from the Project will directly reduce water demand imported from the SWP and allow 2,750 AFY to be conserved to instream flows in the SWP (Bay-Delta). Over the last five years, between 23,504 AFY and 78,396 AFY of purchased imported water from SWP has been delivered to Valley District for groundwater basin recharge and management. Southern California obtains a large portion of its water supply from the SWP and the CRA. The Colorado River's long-term imbalance in future supply and demand is projected to be approximately 3.2 MAF by the year 2060. Approximately 40 million people rely on the Colorado River and its tributaries for water, with 5.5 million acres of land using Colorado River water for irrigation. From 2000–2015, there were only three years when the Colorado River flow was above average (Metropolitan Water District [MWD], 2015 UWMP, 2016). The availability of water supplies from the SWP can be highly variable as well. In 2015, only 20% of the total allocation to MWD was available, while in 2016 only 60% of the total allocation to MWD was available. "Table A" water is the maximum entitlement of SWP water for each water contracting agency. In 2017, the final SWP Table A Allocation was 85% of the maximum allocation, amounting to 1.62 MAF to MWD. However, even with the rainfall during early 2019, Southern California was still in abnormally dry conditions and is heavily reliant on imported water supplies from CRA and SWP. In 2021, the City's groundwater manager, Valley District, was unable to purchase SWP water because of a decrease down to 5% in SWP water supply allocation due to drought conditions. The Project's reduction on imported water demand supports state and federal water reliability initiatives.

Evaluation Criterion D - Severity of Actual or Potential Drought Impacts Addressed by the Project

Severity of Ongoing or Potential Drought Impacts if No Action is Taken. The severity of ongoing and potential drought impacts addressed by the Project is significant due to a limited local water supply and a reliance on imported water. On June 7, 2022 Southern California officials declared a water shortage emergency and adopted restrictions for counties, including San Bernardino, limiting watering to one day per week. Table 2 below summarizes key regional drought impacts. The City provides water service to a population of 55,860 via 12,058

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municipal water service connections. Over the last 5 years, between 23,504 AFY and 78,396 AFY of purchased imported water from SWP has been imported through hundreds of miles of pipeline for delivery to Valley District for groundwater basin management, enhancing the impact of drought conditions and the reality of limited local water supplies. This heightened risk of dependence on vulnerable imported water was the catalyst for the City's expansion of local potable water sources. The Inland Empire region is exceptionally vulnerable to drought because it depends so heavily on imported water for groundwater recharge, even in typical and wet years. U.S. Drought Monitor data shows most of San Bernardino County in extreme drought, with most of California in a severe to exceptional drought.

Risk to Drinking Water	Risk to Ecosystem	Risk to Groundwater	Other Drought Related Impacts
- San Bernardino County declared water shortage emergency in June and in a state of extreme drought in May 2022 - Not receiving imported water supply for groundwater recharge and management during	 Hydrologic modifications threaten the Santa Ana Sucker and the other 21 species in the Upper Santa Ana River HCP Spread of invasive plants Vegetation stress Instability in soil and 	 Limited rainfall and surface water replenishing the groundwater basins Increased water quality issues due to decreased flows infiltrating into basins and increased 	 Increase in water demands for landscape use due to higher temperatures; threatens property values if irrigation water is not available Catastrophic wildfires, including 2003 Grand Prix Fire that threatened Rialto and affected parts of nearby cities, and National Forests Post-wildfire conditions threatening surface water quality due to increased sediment and contaminant flow within the Santa Ana River Watershed Tension over finite water supplies
catastrophic or drought conditions	slopes due to weak tree/vegetation roots	groundwater	- GHG emissions contributing to decline in the San Bernardino Forest Ecosystems

Table 2. Summary of Drought Impacts

The Bay-Delta, through the SWP, typically provides about a third of Southern California's water. In March 2021, the DWR announced 5% allocation to SWP Contractors. Based on current water levels behind Oroville Dam and other northern California reservoirs, the City is assuming a 0% SWP allocation in 2022. The proposed Project is located in the Upper Santa Ana River IRWM Region, an area currently suffering from drought. This region is highly dependent on its local water supplies, particularly precipitation stored as groundwater, which provides over 70% of supplies during drought years. To meet demand during drought years, the region relies on local supplies and imported water from storage (Upper Santa Ana River IRWM Plan, 2015, page ES-2). If no action is taken, the demand on imported potable water for groundwater management continues to increase with drought conditions.

o Public Health Concerns or Social Concerns for DACs. The Project will provide more reliable potable water to DACs for potable uses. From a social equality and environmental justice perspective, DACs are greatly impacted during droughts, which are shown in Figure 3. During droughts, irrigation water is the first to be reduced, creating more dust and allergens, as well as adding to heat islands, thereby negatively impacting public health. The City's ability to immediately serve a portion of its potable water demand produced from local sources is a critical step towards regional self-sufficiency to protect the needs and health of the community.

o Increased Risk of Wildfires. The City has endured severe wildfires, and the duration, frequency, intensity, and size of wildfires has increased due to drought conditions creating dry vegetation. The Project provides a new local source of water available to combat the increasing wildfire threat. The City is plagued by severe, dry Santa Ana Winds with gusts up to 50 miles per hour that get channeled through nearby Cajon Pass. The Santa Ana winds' low humidity, combined with the warm air mass and high wind speeds, create critical fire weather

conditions, making them infamous for fanning regional fires. The northern portion of the City is mapped as a Very High Fire Severity Hazard Zone by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Wildfires and wind-driven urban fires are already a regional concern and have caused water quality and flood control issues. Should climate change increase drought periods and result in more fires, water quality, flood potential, and human health and safety will be further impacted. The Project will provide up to 2,750 AFY of potable water that increases supply available for fire suppression locally and regionally.

o Imported Drinking Water Impacts from Interruptions: The Project increases water supply reliability by providing up to 2,750 AFY of new local water supply. The drought has impacted drinking water supplies in the City by decreasing the reliability of imported water as demonstrated by the 2021 5% SWP allocation and the City's is assumption of a 0% SWP allocation in 2022. Providing system and water supply reliability benefits is crucial for combatting the ongoing drought conditions.

o Ongoing or Potential Environmental Impacts - Natural Area Environmental Impacts. Drought decreases water quality for habitats throughout the region. Dry winters and early springs threaten habitat as the fire potential increases. The Project will install a groundwater treatment facility associated with the City 3A Groundwater Well in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed, and removing arsenic from the local groundwater supply provides a Watershed-wide water quality benefit. As described in the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan, the Santa Ana River contains a variety of riverine conditions and habitat types that support a number of fish species throughout nearly the entire river when winter and spring flows are present. The Santa Ana River wash is a state-designated Significant Natural Area (Upper Santa Ana River IRWM Plan, 2015, page 2-51). Approximately 27 sensitive plant and animal species are known to occur in the wash. About 760 acres of land belonging to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Upper Santa Ana River wash area have been designated by BLM as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern because of the presence of federally listed species, the Santa Ana River wooly-star, and the San Bernardino kangaroo rat (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1988). The Project will positively impact the Santa Ana River Watershed by removing arsenic from groundwater that could otherwise make its way into the habitats of these listed species.

o Other Drought-Related Impacts - Tensions Over Imported Water and Groundwater Supplies. There is water-related conflict over limited water supplies within the Bay-Delta and the Colorado River from which much of southern California receives imported water to meet heavy demand. The Project will help to reduce the amount of water needed for import to southern California. The water-related conflict within the Bay-Delta and Colorado River is significant, and implementing the Project will assist in increasing local water reliability and decreasing imported water. Locally, there has been tension and litigation over water in the SBB and its subbasins. The basins of the IRUWMP area are among the most rigorously managed in the state. IRUWMP Section 3.3 (Page 3-18) outlines regional groundwater management, including court judgments, groundwater management plans, and pumping rights for each of the regional groundwater basins. Tensions are exacerbated by drought, as the local groundwater and surface water supplies are influenced by annual precipitation. Lytle Creek is one of the largest tributaries of the Santa Ana River, rising from three forks in the San Gabriel Mountains and flowing southeast, before emptying into the Santa Ana River as Lytle Creek Wash. In extended drought conditions, the surface water supplies in the Lytle Creek region can be severely impacted. The City is vulnerable to water shortages due to climatic influences because the City's pumping rights could be reduced if groundwater levels decline.

Describe existing or potential drought conditions in the project area. Existing drought conditions in the Project area are severe to extreme as shown in **Figure 6** on the following page.

o Is the project in an area that is currently suffering from drought or which has recently suffered from drought? Yes, the Project is located in Inland Empire, an area currently suffering from drought. In July 2016, the City declared a Stage 2 Water Shortage through the adoption of City Council Resolution No. 6989, implementing IRUWMP Water Shortage Contingency Plan activities that continue today. The U.S. Drought Monitor declared much of San Bernardino County in extreme drought in May 2022 as shown in Figure 6, and the majority of California in severe to exceptional drought conditions. In July 2021, Governor Newson signed

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an executive order calling on Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15% compared to 2020 levels and extended the regional drought state of emergency in all 58 counties. On April 26, 2022, MWD passed a resolution that limits outdoor watering to just one day per week. The resolution follows a reduction in deliveries from the SWP, as California braces for another devastatingly dry year. With conditions only expected to worsen in the coming summer months, the state is expecting water supply to be strained further.



Figure 6. U.S. Drought Monitor Map

May 31, 2022 (Released Thursday, Jun. 2, 2022) Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Curtis Riganti National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

o Projected Increases in Severity or Duration of Drought from Climate Change: DWR, based on historical data, forecasts that snowpack in the Sierra Nevada will fall 25 to 40% below the historical average by 2050. The California Climate Science and Data for Water Resources Management (DWR, 2015), identifies how droughts are likely to become more frequent and persistent during this century. Their projections include: 1) Temperature - Scripps Institution of Oceanography indicates that by 2060-2069 mean temperatures will be 3.4 to 4.9 °F higher across the state than they were in the period 1985-1994; 2) Precipitation – Most climate model precipitation projections for the state anticipate drier conditions in Southern California, with heavier and warmer winter precipitation in Northern California; 3) Snowpack - Based on research and modeling at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, by the end of the century, the Sierra snowpack may experience a 48-65% loss from the 1961-1990 average. Rising temperatures are expected to increase evapotranspiration from vegetation and increase water loss due to evaporation in reservoirs. These factors will worsen the imbalance between increasing water demand and decreasing Colorado River water supplies. This has increased the urgency of local resource development in the City's service area, directly supporting additional actions, including implementing the Project, to address future drought conditions.

Evaluation Criterion E – Project Implementation

Project Implementation. The Project is capable of proceeding immediately after execution of the agreement with Reclamation. **Table 3** shows the Project schedule with a start date of April 2023, construction beginning January 2024, and Project completion by April 2025. The tasks outlined demonstrate how the Project will be implemented. No new policies or administrative actions are required, but as a routine procedure, City Council approval of the construction contract will be required. The following presents the Project scope of work:

Task 1: Project Management. Under this task, the City will prepare documentation relating to Project funding, manage internal/external forces responsible for the preparation of necessary reports and contract documents, administer the construction contract, coordinate necessary testing, and monitor Project progress.

Task 2: Reporting. With City support, the City's consultant, Soto Resources, will prepare progress reports detailing work completed during each reporting period. Reporting will be performed on a semiannual basis, including Financial Reports, Performance reports, and Financial Reimbursement Requests using the Automated Standard Application for Payments system. Reporting will be in accordance with the agreement requirements and will include information regarding the status of the Project's Performance Measures.

Task 3: CEQA/NEPA Documentation. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for the Project is anticipated to be met with an Initial Study and either a Categorical Exemption or a negative Declaration. The City is anticipated to take the federal lead role for CEQA-Plus compliance and will complete consultation with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Task 4: **Permitting.** It is anticipated that the Project will require a modification to the existing SWRCB Division of Drinking Water (DDW) Drinking Water Permit. Concurrent with construction, the City will request an amendment to the existing permit for inclusion of the new groundwater treatment facility.

Task 5: Environmental and Regulatory Compliance. The City will administer the process for environmental and regulatory compliance review by Reclamation (including NEPA, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and SHPO) applicable to a Reclamation grant. This task includes work separate from Task 3, CEQA/NEPA Compliance, which is associated with the Consultant's effort.

Task 6: Design. Final design is anticipated to be completed in January 2023. Final design will include completing 100% plans and specifications that will be used to bid the Project to contractors.

Task 7: Bidding. Activities necessary to secure a contractor, including development of bid documents, preparation of advertisement and contract documents for construction contract bidding, conducting pre-bid meeting, bid evaluation, contractor selection, contract award, and issuance of notice to proceed.

Task 8: Construction Administration. The City will administer the construction contract for installation of the water treatment facility, including completed facility testing. City will provide and coordinate management support services and help to respond to requests for information.

Task 9: Construction/Implementation Activities. Construction activities will conform to applicable Standard Plans and Specifications, Public Works Construction, County of San Bernardino, and applicable State and federal laws. Construction will meet City Design Criteria and all applicable standards, including those of the American Water Works Association. Construction activities include acquisition of necessary bonds and insurance; preparing submittals for review; ordering materials; moving contractor facilities and equipment to predetermined staging areas and other similar miscellaneous activities; installation of the groundwater treatment facility; startup of operations; facility testing; removal of material and equipment; site cleanup; and restoration. The City 3A Groundwater Well includes a two-vessel IX system, 1,700 linear feet of 12-inch pipeline to reach the distribution system, electrical, well motor and pump equipment, chlorination system, SCADA and security equipment, fencing, lighting, flush discharge basin, and miscellaneous site improvements.

Table 3 on the following page presents the Project schedule and shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates.

Project Task	Start Date	End Date
Anticipated Award Timeframe		March 31, 2023
Task 1: Project Management	April 2023	April 2025
Task 2: Reporting	June 2023	April 2025
Task 3: CEQA/NEPA Documentation	June 2023	September 2023
Task 4: Permitting	July 2023	January 2025
Task 5: Environmental and Regulatory Compliance	June 2023	August 2023
Task 6. Design	June 2023	September 2023
Task 7: Bidding	September 2023	December 2023
Task 8: Construction Administration	January 2024	October 2024
Task 9: Construction/Implementation Activities	January 2024	October 2024

Table 3. Project Schedule with Dates

Evaluation Criterion F – Nexus to Reclamation

Water Service, Repayment, or O&M Contract with Reclamation. No, the City does not have a water service, repayment, or operations and maintenance contract with Reclamation.

Applicant Receipt of Reclamation Water. The City is not a Reclamation contractor. The City receives SWP (Bay-Delta) water through Valley District, a SWP contractor. The City receives SWP water because Valley District uses SWP water to recharge the local groundwater basins from which the City pumps and obtains almost all of its potable water supply. Although a SWP contractor is different from a Reclamation contractor, the Project benefits to the Bay-Delta are transferrable to both SWP contractors and Reclamation CVP contractors. More water remaining in the Bay-Delta benefits the CVP, for Reclamation and its contractors.

Project Benefits to a Reclamation Project Area or Activity. The Project benefits a Reclamation project activity because it benefits the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Basin Study. Reclamation was a key partner in developing the Summary Report for the Santa Ana Watershed Basin Study (Reclamation, 2013), along with SAWPA and members of the OWOW Committee. The City is an active member of the OWOW Committee and a member agency of Valley District (a SAWPA member agency) who supplies and manages the groundwater basins from which the City pumps nearly all of its potable water supply. The Project also benefits Reclamation's efforts related to the SWP, a water facility project managed in tandem with Reclamation, as mandated in the 1986 Coordinated Operations Agreement between the U.S. and DWR. The Project also benefits Reclamation's efforts in the CVP. The CVP reduces flood risk for the Central Valley, and supplies the Central Valley with domestic and industrial water, whereas the SWP provides a water supply and delivery system to distribute water across California. Both the CVP and SWP rely on water supply in the Bay-Delta. Reclamation and the California DWR coordinate on the balance of water in the Bay-Delta for uses in the SWP and CVP. Therefore, both the SWP and the CVP benefit from more water remaining in the Bay-Delta. Local water utilization reduces import from the Bay-Delta, leaving water in the basin from which it originates or that is made available to meet demands in other areas of the state.

Another nexus to Reclamation is that the Project directly supports the City of Rialto's Drought Contingency Plan, which is under preparation and anticipated for publication in 2023. Reclamation awarded this project \$200,000 in 2017 (agreement signed in 2019) under the Drought Response Program: Drought Contingency Planning Grant Program.

Tribal Designation. The City is not a Tribe.

A Categorical Exemption or a Negative Declaration is anticipated to meet CEQA requirements, and a Categorical Exclusion or FONSI under NEPA is anticipated given the nature of the Project. Based on the City's experience with similar projects, it is anticipated that the proposed Project will receive a Categorical Exclusion under NEPA. As the lead for NEPA, any costs identified for Reclamation to perform NEPA work will be included in the final project budget in the Financial Assistance Agreement. Questions focusing on the NEPA, Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), and Natural Historic Preservation Act requirements are presented below.

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

To allow Reclamation to assess the probable environmental and cultural resources impacts and costs associated with each application, all applicants must respond to the following list of questions focusing on NEPA, ESA, and NHPA requirements. Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. If any question is not applicable to the project, please explain why.

CEQA and NEPA documentation will be provided under Task 3: CEQA/NEPA Documentation, as required. The Project's environmental compliance process is not yet complete. A Categorical Exemption under CEQA is anticipated based on the City's experience because the well is existing, and the treatment system will be constructed on an existing developed and disturbed site.

(1) Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.

No, the Project will not impact the surrounding environment. The proposed Project includes installing a groundwater treatment facility within an existing developed site. The proposed Project will not cause soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, as stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented. Soil that is excavated and not used as backfill for the pipe trench will be disposed of off-site in a legal manner. Because the immediate surrounding area is already developed and has existing water related improvements, the impacts caused by construction of the Project will be mitigated by typical dust control, runoff containment, traffic control, cultural resources protection measures, noise and air emissions controls. Storm water pollution prevention protection plans will be enforced. Animal habitat will not be impacted and the contractor will be required to take special precautions, if necessary. Construction impacts are expected to be limited and controlled. The intent of the proposed Project is to improve water supply reliability. Therefore, the proposed Project is considered consistent with the region's Air Quality Management Plan. No air quality impacts would occur and no mitigation is expected to be required. The Project site will not create an adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulation, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Due to the location of the site and being within an existing developed site, no impacts on wetlands or wildlife will occur and no conflicts with local policies, ordinances or provisions of adopted biological resource plans will occur. There are no riparian or wetland areas that may be directly impacted. Due to its location, the Project will not interfere with the movement of wildlife or impede native wildlife nursery sites. The Project is in conformance with the local policies instituted to protect the biological resources in the area. The Project does not create conflicts with the provisions of local and/or regional habitat conservation plans.

(2) Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?

No known species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal endangered or threatened species, or designated critical habitats have been identified within the Project area.

(3) Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States?" If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the project may have.

No, there are no wetlands or other surface waters inside the Project boundaries that potentially fall under Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States." No associated impacts would occur and no mitigation is required.

(4) When was the water delivery system constructed?

Construction of the City's water delivery system generally began in 1924, with significant growth between the 1950s and the 1980s.

(5) Will the project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously. No, the Project will not result in any modification of or effect to individual features of an irrigation system.

(6) Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation City listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.

No, there are no buildings, structures, or features listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places within the Project site.

(7) Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?

No, known archeological sites have been identified within the Project area.

(8) Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?

No, the Project will not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. The Project has the potential to provide positive benefits to low income and minority populations by increasing water supply reliability to their communities.

(9) Will the proposed project limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?

No, it is not anticipated that the Project will limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands; Per Assembly Bill 52, tribal cultural resources will be researched and addressed during CEQA and NEPA compliance. The Project is located within an already disturbed area.

(10) Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?

No, the Project will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative species known to occur in the area.

Required Permits or Approvals

As identified in the Evaluation Criterion E – Project Implementation section of this application, it is anticipated

that the Project will require a modification to the existing SWRCB DDW Drinking Water Permit. Final approval from the City Council will also be required to approve the contract for the construction contractor.

Existing Drought Contingency Plan

The 2020 IRUWMP adopted by the City currently serves as the most relevant drought contingency plan. Excerpts from this plan are presented in **Appendix B**. Refer to Evaluation Criterion B – Drought Planning and Preparedness for more detail on the specific sections attached from this Plan.

Letters of Project Support

Letters of Project support were provided by Congressmember Pete Aguilar, U.S. Representative for California's 31st District; Senator Connie M. Leyva, California State Senator for the 20th District; Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes, Assembly Majority Leader for California's 47th District; and Heather Dyer, Chief Executive Office/General Manager San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. Copies of these letters are included in **Appendix C**.

Official Resolution

An official resolution of the City of Rialto's City Council is planned for adoption at their meeting on June 14, 2022. A copy of the draft resolution is included in **Appendix D**. A copy of the executed resolution will be submitted to Reclamation within 30 days of June 15, 2022, the due date of this application. The resolution verifies the City's legal authority to enter into an agreement; that the City Council has reviewed and supports submittal of this application; the capability of the City to provide the amount of funding and in-kind contributions specified in the Funding Plan; and that the City will work cooperatively with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a cooperative agreement.

Overlap or Duplication of Efforts Statement

There is no anticipated overlap between the proposed Project and any other active or anticipated City proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel that would adversely impact the Project. In addition, the proposal submitted for consideration under this program is not currently in any way duplicative of any proposal or project that has been or will be submitted for funding consideration to any other potential Federal or non-Federal funding source.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

No actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission of this application.

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 in U.S. dollars or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse Internet Data Entry System in accordance with 2 CFR §200 subpart F. The City was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Since this application is requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, to comply with the requirement that Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form represents the City's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.



TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

March 30, 2015

Job No. 144-SBD01B

- To: Mr. Alejandro Juarez Capital Improvements Projects Veolia Water Rialto, CA via email: <u>alejandro.juarez@veolia.com</u>
- Cc: Mr. Soomodh Abraham, Veolia Water soomodh.abraham@veolia.com Mr. Phillip West, SA Associates Consulting Engineers pwest@saassociates.net
- From: Chris Wick and Earl LaPensee Richard C. Slade and Associates LLC (RCS)
- Re: Summary of Packer Testing & Time-Series Groundwater Sampling for City Well No. 3A City of Rialto (City) and Veolia Water (Veolia)

INTRODUCTION

This Memorandum summarizes the results of recent pumping tests (including the use of a packer tool) and time-series groundwater sampling that were conducted in City Well No. 3A for the City of Rialto (City) and Veolia Water (Veolia, the entity that has taken over operation of the City's water-supply system) and provides our recommendations for the future use of this well. The subject well is located north of East Baseline Rd and west of North Lassen St, in the City of San Bernardino, California, as shown on Figure 1, "Well Location Map." Lytle Creek lies approximately 1,500 ft east of City Well No. 3A.

City Well No. 3A was constructed in 2010, and post-construction pumping tests and sample and analyses of a final wellblend sample revealed that arsenic (As) was detected in a final wellblend sample at a concentration of 9.3 micrograms per liter (μ g/L); this value is below the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water (DDW) Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 micrograms per Liter (μ g/L) for this constituent.



Appendix C – Letters of Support

109 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225-3201 685 EAST CARNEGIE DRIVE SUITE 100 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92-08 (99) 890-44-15 VICE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS HOUSE DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE



June 14, 2022

Mr. Grayford Payne Deputy Commissioner U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240-0001

Re: City of Rialto's City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project

Dear Mr. Payne:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Rialto's City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project application submitted for the Fiscal Year 2023 WaterSMART Drought Response Program's: Drought Resiliency Projects. The City will fund 51% (\$2,114,725) of the project costs and is requesting 49% (\$2,000,000) of the project costs. If approved, the project will enable the city to treat impaired groundwater supply and deliver a new, local supply of potable water for residential users. Further, the project will help provide critical drought relief and reduce the extreme drought conditions the city is experiencing.

The City of Rialto's municipal water system provides potable, non-potable, and recycled water to customers primarily within the City of Rialto and serves approximately 55,860 people. The city relies on imported water from the State Water Project (SWP) to replenish local groundwater basins and supply potable water to its service area. Over the last 5 years, between 23,504 Acre-Feet Yearly (AFY) and 78,396 AFY of purchased water has been imported. However, the increasing drought conditions and decreasing reliability on imported water, jeopardizes water sustainability in our community. For those reasons, projects that help develop local water supply and reduce dependence on imported water are critical to the city and San Bernardino County.

The City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Project is expected to produce a sustainable water yield of up to 2,750 AFY. The project includes equipping an existing well with an ion-exchange treatment system that removes arsenic from the water. It includes 1,700 linear feet of 12-inch pipeline, electrical and pumping equipment, chlorination system, supervisory controls, data acquisition equipment, discharge basin, security₃ and miscellaneous site improvements. The project is consistent with the Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan (IRUWMP), the primary drought plan for our region.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS





COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

The City of Rialto has provided reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since the 1920s. With our current drought conditions, projects like the City of Rialto's Well Project will provide efficient water supply, energy management and will enhance drought resiliency throughout the region.

I encourage you to give the City of Rialto's City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility application your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations. If you have any questions, please contact Curt Lewis, Grant Program Director in my office: <u>Curt.Lewis@mail.house.gov.</u>

Sincerely,

PeterAsil

Pete Aguilar Member of Congress

CAPITOL OFFICE STATE CAPITOL ROOM 4061 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 TEL (916) 651-4020 FAX (916) 651-4920

DISTRICT OFFICES 101 W. MISSION, SUITE 111 POMONA, CA 91766 TEL (909) 469-1110 FAX (909) 469-1123

464 WEST 4TH STREET SUITE 454B SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401 TEL (909) 888-5360 FAX (909) 591-7096

June 10, 2022

Thomas J. Crowley Utilities Manager, City of Rialto 150 S. Palm Avenue Rialto, California 92376

Re: Letter of Support for Funding City of Rialto's City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project

Dear Mr. Crowley:

The City of Rialto (City) is submitting a WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects grant application for consideration by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2023. This grant would help fund the City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project (Project) as part of its long-term goals of water supply reliability, efficient water management, and drought resiliency.

The Project will allow the City to treat local impaired groundwater supplies for improved water supply reliability to respond to impacts from drought and climate change. To deliver a new, local supply of potable water, the Project includes equipping an existing well with an ion-exchange treatment system that would remove arsenic from the water, as well as 1,700 linear feet of 12-inch pipeline, electrical and pumping equipment, chlorination system, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and security equipment, fencing, flush discharge basin, and miscellaneous site improvements. The Project will produce an expected sustainable water yield of up to 2,750 acre-feet annually. With the current drought conditions and decreased reliability of imported water supply, projects that help utilize and develop local water supplies are critical for improving water sustainability throughout the City's service area and within San Bernardino County, California.

The City has been providing reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since the 1920s. I fully support the Project and the City's efforts to enhance regional drought resiliency. If you have questions regarding my support of this project, please contact me at (909) 469-1110.

Sincerely,

CONNIE M. LEYVA State Senator, 20th District



CHAIR EDUCATION

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURED HOME COMMUNITIES

MEMBER BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON EDUCATION

BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HEALTH

STATE CAPITOL P.O. BOX 942849 SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0047 (916) 319-2047 FAX (916) 319-2147

DISTRICT OFFICE 290 NORTH D STREET, SUITE 903 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401 (909) 381-3238 FAX (909) 885-8589

E-MAIL Assemblymember.Reyes@assembly.ca.gov



COMMITTEES AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE BUDGET JUDICIARY LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT UTILITIES AND ENERGY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON EDUCATION FINANCE

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

June 10, 2022

Thomas J. Crowley Utilities Manager, City of Rialto 150 S. Palm Avenue Rialto, California 92376

Re: Letter of Support for Funding City of Rialto's **City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project** grant application

Dear Mr. Crowley:

I am writing to express support for the city of Rialto's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects grant application for the Fiscal Year 2023. This grant would help fund Rialto's 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project (Project) as part of its long-term goals of water supply reliability, efficient water management, and drought resiliency.

Funding this project will allow the city to treat local impaired groundwater supplies for improved water supply reliability to respond to impacts from drought and climate change. To deliver a new, local supply of potable water, the project includes equipping an existing well with an ion-exchange treatment system that would remove arsenic from the water, as well as 1,700 linear feet of 12-inch pipeline, electrical and pumping equipment, chlorination system, Supervisory Control, and Data Acquisition and security equipment, fencing, flush discharge basin, and miscellaneous site improvements.

The project will produce an expected sustainable water yield of up to 2,750 acre-feet annually. With the current drought conditions and decreased reliability of imported water supply, projects that utilize and develop local water supplies are critical for improving water sustainability throughout the city's service area and within San Bernardino County. I welcome this project and the potential long-term benefits that it will bring to the community. The city of Rialto has been providing reliable and safe drinking water to its customers since the 1920s. I fully support the project and the city's efforts to enhance regional drought resiliency. If you have questions regarding my support of this project, please contact me at (909)381-3238.

Sincerely,



ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES Majority Leader, 47th District

EGR: po



380 East Vanderbilt Way San Bernardino, CA 92408 phone: 909.387.9200 fax: 909.387.9247 www.sbvmwd.com

June 8, 2022

Thomas J. Crowley Utilities Manager, City of Rialto 150 S. Palm Avenue Rialto, California 92376

Re: Letter of Support for Funding City of Rialto's **City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project** grant application for the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2023

Dear Mr. Crowley:

On behalf of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District), I am pleased to support the City of Rialto's (City) WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects grant application for consideration by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2023. I understand if awarded, this grant would help fund the City 3A Groundwater Well Treatment Facility Project (Project) as part of of the City's long-term goals of water supply reliability, efficient water management, and drought resiliency.

The Project will allow the City to treat local impaired groundwater supplies for improved water supply reliability to respond to impacts from drought and climate change. To deliver a new, local supply of potable water, the Project includes equipping an existing well with an ion-exchange treatment system that would remove arsenic from the water, as well as 1,700 linear feet of 12-inch pipeline, electrical and pumping equipment, chlorination system, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and security equipment, fencing, flush discharge basin, and miscellaneous site improvements. The Project will produce an expected sustainable water yield of up to 2,750 acre-feet annually.

With the current drought conditions and decreased reliability of imported water supply, projects that help utilize and develop local water supplies are critical for improving water sustainability throughout the City's service area, the Valley District service area, and throughout San Bernardino County, California.

The City has been providing reliable, safe drinking water to its customers since the 1920s. Valley District supports the Project and the City's efforts to enhance regional drought resiliency.

If you have questions regarding our support of this project, please contact me by email at heatherd@sbvmwd.com.

Sincerely,

Heather Dyer, MS, MBA Chief Executive Officer/General Manager

Board of Directors and Officers

JUNE HAYES Division 1 GIL J. BOTELLO Division 2

SUSAN LONGVILLE Division 3 T. MILFORD HARRISON Division 4

PAUL R. KIELHOLD Division 5 HEATHER P. DYER CEO/General Manager

1 **RESOLUTION NO.** 2 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIALTO, 3 GRANT CALIFORNIA. AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION, 4 ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES **RECLAMATION'S** BUREAU OF DROUGHT RESILIENCE 5 PROGRAM FOR THE WELL "CITY 3A" GROUNDWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM PROJECT. 6 7 8 9 WHEREAS, City of Rialto proposes to implement the Well "City 3A" Groundwater 10 Treatment System Project; 11 WHEREAS, City of Rialto has the legal authority and is authorized to enter into a funding 12 agreement with the State of California; and 13 WHEREAS, City of Rialto intends to apply for grant funding from the United States Bureau 14 of Reclamation's Drought Resilience Program for the Well "City 3A" Groundwater Treatment 15 System Project: 16 NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIALTO DOES 17 HEREBY FIND, DETERMINE, AND RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS: 18 The City of Rialto City Manager, or designee is hereby authorized and Section 1: 19 directed to prepare and file an application for funding with the United States Bureau of 20 Reclamation and take such other actions necessary or appropriate to obtain grant funding. 21 Section 2: The City of Rialto City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and 22 directed to execute the funding agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation and 23 any amendments thereto. 24 The City of Rialto City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and Section 3: 25 directed to submit any required documents, invoices, and reports required to obtain grant 26 funding. 27 ///// 28