



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: October 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6B: Adoption of a Resolution to Authorize the General Manager to Submit an Application for Grant Funding through the Bureau of Reclamation for a WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Groveland Automated Metering Infrastructure Project

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Move to adopt resolution 31-2024 Authorizing the General Manager to Submit an Application for Grant Funding through the Bureau of Reclamation for a WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Groveland Automated Metering Infrastructure Project.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of the Interior offers grant funding through its Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program, which supports water management organizations developing projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings, increase energy efficiency and the production of hydropower, and support broader water reliability benefits.

DISCUSSION:

The District water system currently utilizes manual water meters to monitor and measure the amount of water used within each active connection. District's operators must visit each individual meter and manually record each water meter reading each month to obtain water usage information. The District's existing meter reading system is outdated, inaccurate, and inefficient due to its excessive labor time to read meters, cost of vehicle maintenance, and Greenhouse Gas emissions from the vehicle miles traveled. Therefore, staff is proposing to replace its existing water metering system with Automatic Metering Reading (AMR) system, that will transfer meter readings wirelessly.

Staff is currently working with the Tuolumne Stanislaus Integrated Regional Management (IRWM) JPA to prepare a grant application for the Groveland Automated Metering Infrastructure Project, which proposes to replace approximately 3,256 existing manual water meters with new AMR meters. The new water meters will be installed in the same location as the existing meters and additional required infrastructure will be placed accordingly to ensure optimal transmission of water meter data. We have installed nearly 100 of the smart meters to date as part of a pilot project and have had excellent results.

Due to the \$2 million application cap, we are requesting that the Board authorize staff to submit the application either through the IRWM or the District directly depending on how many entities seek funding from our region. The grant program funds up to 50% of the total project costs, and the remainder would be covered by our water enterprise funds and potentially a loan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This project is a high priority as it will greatly improve meter reading efficiency, improve customer service, reduce customer and system water losses, and allow for rapid identification and location of leaks, thus reducing property damage and saving cost. There is no fiscal impact associated with submitting the application, other than the cost of engineering time, expected to not exceed \$5000. The grant covers up to 50% of the project cost. Staff will return to the Board with a request for approval to accept any award under these applications and request a budget amendment at that time.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 31-2024
2. Notice of Funding Opportunity (hyperlink)
 - a. https://www.gcsd.org/files/355704000/Bureau+of+Reclamation+Water+Smart+Grant_Smart+Meter.pdf

RESOLUTION 31-2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATERSMART WATER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 FOR THE GROVELAND AUTOMATED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Groveland Community Services District (herein referred to as District) is a local government agency formed and operating in accordance with Section §61000 et seq. of the California Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation provides funding opportunities for water and energy efficiency projects as part of the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Program; and

WHEREAS, the Groveland Community Services District (District) desires to submit a grant application for the Automatic Meter Reading Installation Project (Project); and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program and establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Bureau of Reclamation require the applicant to certify by resolution the identity of the official with legal authority to enter into an agreement; that the appropriate official or governing body has reviewed and supports the application submitted; the capability of the applicant to provide the amount of funding and/or in-kind contributions specified in the application funding plan; and that the applicant will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines or entering into a cooperative agreement; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into a cooperative agreement or grant agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to complete the Project if awarded grant funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT DOES hereby adopt Resolution 31-2024 authorizing the General Manager to submit an application for Grant Funding through the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Program for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Groveland Automated Metering Infrastructure Project and resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The General Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to act as agent with legal authority to enter into the grant agreement, conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, payment requests and any other grant required correspondence which may be necessary for the completion of the grant program.

SECTION 2. The General Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to certify that the District will have sufficient matching funds to operate and maintain the grant project requirements in the amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

SECTION 3. The General Manager, or his designee, will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a cooperative agreement.

SECTION 4. Certifies that the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District has reviewed and supports the proposed application.

WHEREFORE, this Resolution is passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District on October 8, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

ABSENT:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVE:

Nancy Mora, Board President

ATTEST:

Rachel Pearlman, Board Secretary

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, Rachel Pearlman, the duly appointed and acting Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District, do hereby declare that the foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District, duly called and held on October 8, 2024.

DATED: _____