



City of Huntington Beach

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Travis K. Hopkins, PE
Director

Department of Public Works
(714) 536-5431

September 13, 2016

Mr. Mike Markus, P.E.
General Manager
Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Subject: Green Acres Project Future Direction

Dear Mike,

At the Orange County Water District (OCWD) Water Issues Committee (WIC) meeting on September 14, 2016, the Committee will be addressing the future direction of the Green Acres Project (GAP). The City of Huntington Beach supports the continued operation of the GAP, which reduces the demand on higher quality water sources such as the groundwater basin and imported water and helps to provide diversity to the region's water portfolio by providing approximately 4,300 AFY of recycled water to over 100 different sites in the region.

The City of Huntington Beach was initially involved with the potential use of recycled water in the late 1990's and early 2000's. At that time, a recycled water distribution system was installed in new residential developments in addition to the normal potable water distribution system. The recycled water system included 202 service lines and meters to be used for residential and parkway irrigation systems. Over 43,000 feet of eight and twelve inch pipelines were installed in the residential areas during that period in preparation of the construction of the recycled water transmission pipeline from the OCWD GAP.

In addition, a recycled water transmission main was constructed in Goldenwest Avenue from the residential areas to the City's Central Park. It is estimated that the irrigation demands at Central Park would be approximately 170 AFY once all of the existing irrigation system is converted to recycled water.

Unfortunately, due to the costs associated with the construction of the GAP transmission pipeline and other distribution system components necessary to extend the recycled water infrastructure to other areas of the City, the construction of additional recycled water infrastructure was suspended. The eight miles of pipelines were connected to the potable water distribution system and those residences in the affected area have a separate water meter for their irrigation system. Those residences and some of the parkways in the area currently utilize approximately 70 AFY for their irrigation needs.

As the result of the drought and the City's desire to expand our water supply portfolio, we have been considering the possibility of utilizing GAP or GWRS water to address some of the irrigation and industrial needs in the City. We have met with members of your staff to discuss the various options and potential costs involved.

To ensure that a thorough evaluation of the potential users, demands, distribution system requirements and construction costs are addressed, the City has hired the engineering firm of Harris and Associates to perform a recycled water feasibility study. This study should be completed by January of 2017.

One of the items that will be addressed at the WIC meeting is the issue of whether additional users be allowed to connect to the GAP system. At this time, OCWD staff has recommended an allowance of 243 AFY of new GAP demand to potential end-users that have already entered the design phase by hiring a consultant or are under construction. The list of those agencies whose eight projects are in design or construction includes the City of Newport Beach, the City of Santa Ana and Mesa Water.

This 243 AFY limit is based on the concern that there must be sufficient source flows from the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) that are above and beyond what is necessary for the GWRS Final Expansion to operate at full capacity. Should a larger volume of water be available from OCSD, then OCWD may consider additional demands on the GAP system.

Due to the amount of infrastructure already in place (approximately nine miles), the current documented demand of approximately 240 AFY and the January 2017 expected completion date of the feasibility study, the City is requesting that the City of Huntington Beach demand of 240 AFY be added to the list of New GAP Connection Requests. This will bring the City's total request to 285 AFY, which includes 45 AFY for Golden West College.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration,



Brian A. Ragland, P.E.
Utilities Manager
City of Huntington Beach

c: Travis K. Hopkins, P.E., Director of Public Works