



## **REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Grant Yates, City Manager

**Prepared By:** Rita Thompson, Senior Engineering Technician

**Date:** July 28, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Cooperative Funding Agreement – Mitigation Monitoring, Regional Agricultural Pipeline Conversion Project – Lake Elsinore Outlet Channel

### **Recommendation**

Authorize the City Manager to execute the Cooperative Funding Agreement for Mitigation Monitoring between Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the City of Lake Elsinore in substantially the form attached and in such final form as approved by the City Attorney. The City's cost share not to exceed the lesser of one-third of the cost of monitoring or \$45,000.00.

### **Background**

To comply with the 2003 Comprehensive Water Management Agreement between the City and EVMWD, EVMWD obtained permission from Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFCWCD) to use the Outlet Channel to transport reclaimed water to the Lake. The resultant constant supply of water has caused vegetation to flourish within the channel bottom; the vegetation obstructs the water flow and consumes the reclaimed water, reducing what actually reaches the Lake. The vegetation has also created maintenance issues for RCFCWCD, the agency responsible for maintenance of the channel. After discovering an old agricultural pipeline in the channel that could transport the reclaimed water in 2016, EVMWD, RCFCWCD, and the City entered into a cooperative agreement to fund a project to design, rehabilitate, construct and provide mitigation monitoring for the pipeline. Construction of the pipeline was completed, and it was put into use in 2019. (Exhibit A)

### **Discussion**

Environmental (CEQA) requirements for the project required that a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) be prepared and implemented. The MMRP requires downstream (adjacent to the Lake) riparian monitoring and habitat enhancement for a period of five years. (Exhibit B) To accomplish these compliance activities, the subject Cooperative Funding Agreement is proposed. It has been reviewed by staff and the City Attorney and found acceptable in content and form. The proceeds from the Agreement will fund a Professional Services Agreement with the project environmental consultant, Helix Environmental Planning.

**Fiscal Impact**

The City's shared cost of not to exceed \$45,000.00 for this project will be funded out of the Operating Budget for Lake Water Maintenance.

**Exhibits:**

- A – Site Plan
- B – Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
- C – Cooperative Agreement