REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JUNE 8, 2022

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER

BY: JESSICA FORTE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/CITY ENGINEER

SUBJECT: STORM WATER TO SEWER DIVERSION PROJECT UPDATE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the diversion element of the Medea Creek and Palo Comado Creek Storm Water Treatment, Upstream Diversion to Sanitary Sewer, and Linear Park Project (project). The project has received conceptual approval from Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and the design is anticipated to reach the 90% completion milestone by July 1st, at which time we will begin the official submittal for LACFCD construction permits. While the permit timelines can be uncertain, staff is aiming to have final permit approval before the end of the calendar year, and is advocating to LACPWD to accelerate the permit process by any available means.

The project's design is funded through a state earmark, and was initially scoped as a dry weather water treatment facility and linear park aimed at Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit compliance. Upon review of the Basis of Design report, completed in 2020, it became apparent that the project would benefit from upstream solutions that could inexpensively reduce both the volume and pollutant loads at the downstream plant. Additionally the treatment plant would be financially infeasible in the short term, and proceeding with the upstream improvements would allow dry weather compliance in ten outfalls rather than the single outfall at the downstream plant.

Storm water diversion to sewer works well in this region, as both systems are typically parallel in order to maintain gravity flow. The intent of this project is to divert urban water from the underground storm drain system, through a manhole, and ultimately into an LVMWD trunk main or local sewer. The City has at total of forty (40) MS4 outfalls, phase one of the project has identified ten locations for diversion installations, based on two criteria 1) where they can pick up the greatest amount of urban flow or 2) the outfalls immediate contribution to a riparian area or open water body. A combination of prefabricated structures will be used to accomplish the diversions, yet, the end product will look the same. From the surface of the ground, only a manhole will appear in the street, and an electrical meter box will be placed nearby, likely in the sidewalk.

This diversion is set to take place during the dry weather season, and the "first flush" or first storm of the wet season. The intent of capturing the first flush is to allow that water to clean out any residual grit or standing water at the bottom of the pipes within the urban

system. This water is typically ripe with bacteria and other constituents prohibited under our MS4 permit.

The water will be conveyed and treated at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility and reused in our parks and medians throughout the region as reclaimed water. These diversions establish a cyclical system creating one of the regions only water supply augmentations.

This work has been granted $1.25M from the State's Prop 1 Round 1 grant and requires match funding in the amount of $1.25M. The City will stretch the match over two years, FY22/23 and FY23/24, as this aligns with the current design and permitting completion schedule. The match funding will include $1 Million from the Stormwater CIP fund and $250,000 from local Measure W. It is anticipated that the City will award a construction contract for the ten sites to be constructed at once.

The project has been determined by the Planning Department to be Categorically Exempt from CEQA; specifically Class 1 (15301(b) Existing Facilities) and Class 3 (15303(d) New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council review this information and provide any necessary feedback.