

**Board of Water Commissioners**

November 18, 2021 Board Meeting

CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER, General Manager

Subject

Discuss the Fiscal Year 2022 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Water Department and the Office of the City Manager to provide partial funding for the City's Office of Sustainability and the Citywide Sustainability Program, and provide direction to the General Manager in connection therewith.

Executive Summary

The Office of Sustainability was created almost 14 years ago and is organizationally located within the Office of the City Manager. The Office of Sustainability works to create a more sustainable community by engaging with individuals, neighborhoods, and City Departments to reduce the impact on the environment and protect Long Beach's local natural resources. The Office of Sustainability is also staff to the Sustainable City Commission. The eleven-member Commission advises the City Council on environmental issues such as transportation, water, energy, waste reduction, and building and neighborhoods.

As the creation of a sustainable, green city is one of the key priorities of the Mayor and City Council, City departments that are involved in sustainable or green activities are asked to partner in supporting this citywide initiative. For more than a dozen years, the departments of Harbor, Airport, Public Works (Refuse), Energy Resources, and Water have contributed toward helping fund the environmental programs provided by the Office of Sustainability. In recent years, the annual financial contribution from the Water Department has been substantially less than that paid by other City departments.

Two months ago, the Office of the City Manager sent the Office of Sustainability Fiscal Year 2022 MOU (attached) to the Water Department for the General Manager to sign. In the course of a subsequent meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners, this subject was mentioned and a request was made from the Board to have the issue agendaized for further discussion before the General Manager considered signing the MOU. The matter was agendaized for October 14, 2021.

At the meeting on October 14, the General Manager provided the Board with some high-level information regarding water-related programs that, in Fiscal Year 2021, the Office of Sustainability worked with the Water Department in providing as well as projects that Sustainability provided without direct Water involvement.

The Board approved the payment of the Fiscal Year 2021 invoices from Sustainability but requested that the Fiscal Year 2022 MOU be brought back once again to the Board for further discussion.

Recommendation

Provide direction to the General Manager as to recommended changes, if any, to the proposed MOU between the Water Department and the Office of the City Manager.

Fiscal Impact: The proposed cost to the Water Fund included in the Fiscal Year 2022 MOU is \$65,000, the same annual amount that has been included in previous MOUs for the past several years. This amount is included in the Water Department's 2022 Fiscal Year budget.



Christopher J. Garner
General Manager

Attachment