



Long Beach Water

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Board of Water Commissioners

May 12, 2022

CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER, General Manager

Subject

Authorize the General Manager to execute and deliver all necessary documents associated with the Direct Payment Agreement with HORNE LLP to receive direct payments for customer financial assistance under the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

Executive Summary

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in acknowledgement of the public health impacts of access to clean water, the federal government included provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to create the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). LIHWAP is a temporary financial assistance program aimed at reducing arrearages for low-income water and wastewater customers. LIHWAP is designed to mirror the Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), an existing federal program that provides financial assistance to low-income energy customers.

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) is administering LIHWAP for the state of California after receiving \$116 million in one-time funding from ARPA. To distribute these funds, CSD contracted with HORNE LLP to provide water and wastewater agencies with direct payments that will be processed as customer credits. To participate in LIHWAP, water and wastewater agencies must enter into a Direct Payment Agreement with HORNE LLP.

Recommendation

Authorize the General Manager to execute and deliver all necessary documents associated with the Direct Payment Agreement with HORNE LLP to receive direct payments for customer financial assistance under the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact to Long Beach Water Department.

B. Anatole Falagan
Assistant General Manager

Christopher J. Garner
General Manager

Attachment