



## City Council Agenda Item Staff Report

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

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**DATE:** March 14, 2023

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

**FROM:** Jovan D. Grogan, City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Matthew Lee, Public Works Director

**SUBJECT:** Adopt Resolution Adopting the Water System Master Plan and Finding the Plan Exempt From the California Environmental Quality Act

**BACKGROUND:**

In March 2020, the City entered into an agreement with West Yost Associates to update the City's Water System Master Plan (WSMP). The purpose of the Water System Master Plan (WSMP) is to identify strategies for maintaining and improving water distribution system performance to meet existing and future water demands and guide capital expenditures for the City's water system.

The WSMP includes the following:

- Evaluate and summarize the existing water system facilities
- Develop water demand projections through 2040
- Evaluate and summarize the City's available water supplies
- Update and calibrate the distribution system hydraulic model
- Prepare capacity and operational reliability evaluation
- Evaluate the risk of failure for the City's existing water distribution system pipelines and develop a systematic replacement program
- Develop pipeline, pump station, tank, and groundwater well replacement strategy
- Develop a prioritized capital improvement program for recommended existing and future water system improvements

The WSMP is an update to the City's 2012 WSMP and provides a comprehensive road map for the City's water system for the next 20 plus years.

The recommended water system capital improvement program (CIP) totals \$317.7 million, in four program areas: \$15.5M in pressure regulating stations, \$86.9M in well, storage and pump stations, and \$163M in pipeline replacement and \$10.7M in miscellaneous (fire flow, data instrumentation, seismic and security risk, and emergency preparedness) improvements.

The WSMP also includes a recommended implementation schedule for the CIP, based on priorities established for each of the programs. A total of \$74.9M is identified for implementation in the FY 2023 through FY 2027 timeframe, and another \$39.7M is identified for implementation in the FY 2028 through FY 2032 timeframe.

The Master Plan's project priorities have been incorporated into the City's Water and Sewer Rate Study assumptions prepared by the public financing consulting firm of Bartle Wells Associates of Berkeley, California. The findings and recommendations of the Rate Study were last presented to the City Council at the February 28, 2023 Study Session. The proposed rate structure will provide needed revenue to support the water utility's operational and capital needs for the next 5-year time period.

**DISCUSSION:**

The City embarked on the WSMP update to provide a more thorough evaluation of the water distribution system and develop a near-term and long-term Capital Improvement Program to comprehensively address the City's water system needs. The WSMP evaluated needs to improve capacity, operational reliability, and address renewal and replacement of aging infrastructure.

Many areas of the City were developed when less stringent requirements were in place. The City's most significant reliability need is to upgrade its water pipeline infrastructure to provide better overall fire flow reliability. The system capacity and operational reliability evaluation assessed whether the City has adequate capacity and reliability for normal operations and emergency needs. The projects identified in the WSMP will significantly improve the City's ability to meet emergency fire flow needs, and the recommended implementation timeframe will provide system upgrades over the next five years, ten years and until 2035.

In 2014, the City embarked on a capital improvement program work plan to begin systematic replacement of water and sewer pipelines, based on age and condition information. Projects were developed to replace both water and sewer lines simultaneously, to minimize disruptions to residents. Since then, the City has completed water and sewer pipeline replacements in several neighborhoods in the older downtown area. The WSMP includes a focused risk assessment of water system pipeline renewal and replacement needs, updating the 2014 analysis based on the latest leak and condition information. The analysis evaluated the likelihood and consequence of pipeline failures to develop a prioritized replacement program, considering factors such as pipeline age, material type and leak history, as well as potential service impacts should pipeline failure occur. Results of the analysis were used to update and re-prioritize the City's pipeline renewal and replacement program using the latest data. These projects are needed for the City to continue to be proactive and begin to address its renewal and replacement needs in a more systematic way.

The WSMP also builds on the City's current programs to provide projects that will maintain its wells, tanks, booster pump stations and pressure regulating stations. These projects include rehabilitation of facilities to replace equipment that has reached the end of its useful life and maintains and extends the lives of facilities to ensure that they continue to deliver reliable performance.

The City is vulnerable to earthquakes, particularly due to its close proximity to the San Andreas Fault. The WSMP capital improvement program recommends updating the City's Seismic Vulnerability Assessment to continue ongoing implementation of the City's seismic

improvement programs to reinforce storage tanks and strengthen pipelines at fault crossings to minimize the system's vulnerability during seismic events.

The adoption of the Water System Master Plan is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to section 15061(b)(3). The Master Plan is a broad-based planning document, and that as individual projects are undertaken, there will be subsequent environmental evaluation and specific mitigation required related to more detailed project information.

The WSMP provides a road map that will enable the City to address water distribution system needs comprehensively, to maintain and enhance the City's ability to provide reliable water service to its residents.

The full Water System Master Plan can be viewed on the City's website:

<https://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4078/Water-System-Master-Plan>

Website navigation: Departments / Public Works / Administration & Engineering / Master Plans.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no direct fiscal impact by adopting this updated Water System Master Plan. Individual Master Plan project recommendations will be included and discussed as part of the upcoming FY2023-24 Capital Improvement Program budget process. The Master Plan's capital project recommendations have also been incorporated into the next five-year customer water rate structure currently under consideration by the City Council.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:**

The Water System Master Plan is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5). Further, the Master Plan is a broad-based planning document, and as individual projects are undertaken, there will be subsequent environmental evaluation review as may be required by the California Environmental Quality Act and specific mitigation required related to more detailed project information. Thus, as a separate and independent basis, the Plan is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act because it can be seen with certainty that the Plan itself does not have the potential to have a significant effect on the environment.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt resolution adopting the Water System Master Plan and finding the Plan exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Direct staff to make changes to the recommended improvements in the WSMP.
2. Do not adopt the WSMP and continue operating under the 2012 Master Plan system assessment and project recommendations.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution
2. Executive Summary, Water System Master Plan