

AGENDA ITEM #: _____

DATE: May 13, 2019

CAR #: 2019-6574



CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

SUBJECT: Mutual Aid Agreement between the city of Goodyear and the Arizona Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (AZWARN)

STAFF PRESENTER(S): Ruben Veloz, Water Superintendent; Barbara Chappell, Utility Operations Manager

OTHER PRESENTER(S): N/A

Summary: Mutual aid agreement with Arizona Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (AZWARN) which provides the city of Goodyear's water and wastewater utilities the ability to provide and/or receive mutual aid from other public and private utility providers in the event of an emergency that overwhelms the resources of one or more utilities.

Recommendation:

ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2019-1934 AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO THE AZWARN MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ARIZONA WATER AND WASTEWATER AGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO.

Fiscal Impact: As participation in AZWARN is voluntary, there are no required costs to be a member of AZWARN. AZWARN does allow for voluntary membership dues. The voluntary membership dues to date have ranged from \$150.00 to \$250.00 per year which is available in the Water and Wastewater operating funds base budget.

Background and Previous Actions

The Arizona Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (AZWARN) was established in March 2008. The city of Goodyear joined the AZWARN group for the first time on April 27, 2009. Currently there are 24 public agencies that are signatories to that AZWARN agreement. The purpose of the agreement was to address reimbursement, insurance, indemnification and other legal issues in advance of an emergency; giving utilities the ability to provide mutual aid to one another in the event of an emergency that overwhelms the resources of one or more utilities. The idea behind AZWARN is that other utilities are better equipped to provide assistance to another utility as they have similar staff knowledge, equipment, materials, and resources. Since other utilities do the same type of work, there is no time needed to train and can respond very quickly.

The Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) model has been successfully used throughout the country in response to many large scale disasters as well as isolated local events. A water/wastewater utility cannot prevent all emergencies, but it can be prepared by having access to resources to mitigate and assist in a quicker recovery. The WARN model establishes an all-hazards approach for faster response and recovery than traditional emergency management putting customers back in service sooner.

Staff Analysis

The existing AZWARN agreement is an Intergovernmental Agreement with an end date of June 30, 2020. The AZWARN membership started working on the new AZWARN mutual aid agreement in 2016 due to the length of time it takes to complete and get consensus. The new agreement, which will supersede the existing agreement, is a standard mutual aid agreement as opposed to an intergovernmental mutual aid agreement. The new agreement still addresses reimbursement, insurance, resource control, and other requirements. It is also valid through June 30, 2030. Since the original intergovernmental agreement was signed, state statutes have changed to now allow public and private water/wastewater utilities to enter into mutual aid agreements. The new mutual aid agreement will provide for both public and private utilities.

There is no obligation for any member to use the agreement. Requesting assistance and responding to a request for assistance is voluntary. This gives each utility the opportunity to evaluate their own situation and determine their availability of resources.

AZWARN provides a no-cost or low-cost access to resources in the event of an emergency. Fortunately, over the last 10 years of the AZWARN existence, the city has not requested any assistance through AZWARN. Throughout the state there has only been a couple of times the AZWARN agreement has been used in a Utility to Utility response. The hope is not to ever need to use the AZWARN agreement; however, having it available is a valuable component to the city's emergency response tool box.

Attachments

Resolution 2019-1934
AZWARN Mutual Aid Agreement
New Agreement Notification and Procedure Letter