

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-393

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
AUTHORIZING THE GRANT APPLICATION, ACCEPTANCE, AND EXECUTION
OF A FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR THE NEWHALL WELLS (N11, N12, N13)
GROUNDWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Agency) determined that Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a threat to the Agency's groundwater resources; and

WHEREAS, the Newhall Wells (N11, N12, N13) Groundwater Treatment Improvements Project (Project) is an important component to treat PFAS; and

WHEREAS, Environmental documents are currently being prepared for the Project in accordance with the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, a decision to submit a grant application that does not commit the Agency to a definite course of action regarding a proposed project is not a project approval subject to CEQA review (*City of Irvine v. County of Orange* (2013) 221 Cal.App.4th 846, 865 [decision to apply for funding for potential jail expansion was not project approval under CEQA]); and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior offers financial assistance in the form of grant funding through its Bureau of Reclamation's FY 2024 WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Drought Response Program (DRP): Drought Resiliency Projects Program for this type of project. The program provides up to a maximum of \$5,000,000 in grant funding for long term projects, but not to exceed 50% of the total project cost; and

WHEREAS, the Agency desires to fund part of the cost of the Project with grant funding from the WaterSMART DRP Program; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has the legal authority and is authorized to enter into a funding agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Board of Directors hereby finds, determines, declares and resolves as follows:

1. The Board of Directors hereby supports a grant application to the WaterSMART DRP Program for the Project.
2. The Board of Directors hereby authorizes and directs the General Manager, or his or her designee, to complete, review, sign and submit for and on behalf of the Agency, a grant application from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART DRP Program for the Project up to the amount of \$5,000,000.
3. The General Manager, or his or her designee, is designated to provide the assurances, certifications, and commitments required for the grant application, including executing a financial assistance or similar agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation within established deadlines and any amendments or changes thereto.

4. The General Manager, or his or her designee, is designated to represent the Agency in carrying out the Agency's responsibilities under the grant agreement, including certifying disbursement requests on behalf of the Agency and compliance with applicable state and federal laws.
5. If a grant award is made by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Agency commits, pending Board of Director compliance with the CEQA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approval of the Project, to providing a minimum of 100% in matching funds (\$5,000,000) for the Project, and up to the balance of funds needed to complete the construction of the Project.



President

I, the undersigned, hereby certify: That I am the duly appointed and acting Secretary of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, and that at a regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of said Agency held on November 21, 2023 the foregoing Resolution No. SCV-393 was duly and regularly adopted by said Board, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended since the date of its adoption, and that it is now in full force and effect.

DATED: November 21, 2023



Secretary

