



Los Angeles
Department of
Water & Power

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD LETTER APPROVAL

ANSELMO G. COLLINS
Senior Assistant General Manager
Water System

David W. Hanson (Oct 28, 2024 16:08 PDT)

DAVID W. HANSON
Interim Senior Assistant General Manager
Power System

Aram Benyamini (Oct 28, 2024 16:15 PDT)

ARAM BENYAMIN
Chief Operating Officer

JANISSE QUIÑONES
Chief Executive Officer and Chief Engineer

DATE: October 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026
Grant and Loan Applications for Water and Power System Projects

SUMMARY

Water and Power Systems request delegation of authority to submit grant and loan applications in response to Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Federal, State of California (State), and local notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) for eligible projects and programs. Authorization by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners (Board) is a required component of many funding applications.

City Council approval is not required.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board adopt the attached Resolution, which does the following:

1. Authorizes the Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System and Senior Assistant General Manager – Power System and/or their designee to submit applications in response to Federal, State, and local grant and loan funding opportunities for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 and accept funding for qualifying projects, programs, and collaborations, including but not limited to:

- a. Power System: Advancement of clean energy technologies, electrification, infrastructure reliability, grid modernization, telecommunications, cybersecurity, equity and environmental justice, energy resource development, workforce development, asset siting and planning, and advanced analytics.
 - b. Water System: Development of sustainable local water supplies, such as stormwater capture, water reuse, groundwater, and water conservation; infrastructure reliability; cybersecurity; and innovative technologies and treatment methods.
2. Requires Water and Power Systems to obtain authorization from the Board to enter into funding agreements upon notice of award and issuance of grant/loan terms and conditions.
3. Designates the Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System and Senior Assistant General Manager – Power System as the legally authorized representative to negotiate and enter into funding agreements or any amendments after approval by the Board.
4. Requires Water and Power Systems to seek Board approval to renew these delegations of authority biannually.
5. Establishes regular reporting to the Board by the General Manager on all funding applications submitted, including notices of awards and unsuccessful application responses.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Many funding programs require authorization/approval from the applicant's governing body to submit applications in response to NOFOs for consideration. Water and Power Systems have traditionally requested approval from the Board on an individual basis for each funding application to be submitted. Given the number of potential funding opportunities anticipated to become available in the near future, and the short deadlines for submittal of funding applications, continuing the current practice could negatively impact staff's ability to develop and submit successful applications on a timely basis.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Authorizing the submission of grant and loan applications has no direct financial impact. The requested delegation of authority to submit grant and loan applications will ensure that the Water and Power Systems respond to NOFOs on a timely basis. External funding is beneficial to LADWP by providing low or zero-interest financing or grants to reduce the cost of critical projects to ratepayers.

BACKGROUND

In November of 2021, the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, was signed into law, which included roughly \$55 billion for water programs, and \$65 billion for clean energy transmission and grid investments. In August of 2022, the \$433 billion Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law, including \$4 billion dedicated for drought relief programs in the West and over \$300 billion in investments in clean energy. These two Federal laws allocated significant funding towards existing and new programs. Over the last few years, the State has also allocated billions of dollars to support future water security and clean energy projects. Local agencies including the Southern California Association of Governments, County of Los Angeles, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have also made funding available for energy and water projects and programs. Water and Power Systems have been actively pursuing all available funding opportunities to develop reliable, sustainable local water supplies; achieve California Senate Bill 100 requirements and meet clean energy goals detailed in the 2022 Power Strategic Long-Term Resource Plan; and enhance resiliency in the face of extreme climate conditions.

Funding programs typically require a resolution from the Board to authorize LADWP to apply for grant and loan funding and to designate officers to fulfill certain functions associated with meeting application requirements and developing funding agreements for said funds. The Board has previously adopted several resolutions pertaining to the pursuit and receipt of specific grant and loan funds for Water System. This funding has supported critical Water System capital improvement projects required to bring LADWP into compliance with federal drinking water regulations and to aid the development of local water supplies. In addition, the Board previously adopted Resolution 024 027 delegating authority to the Senior Assistant General Managers to submit grant and loan applications in FY 2023-2024.

LADWP continues to work closely with our Federal, State, and local partners to identify qualifying projects and programs, pursue funding, and meet all administrative and financial requirements of funding programs.

With approval of this action, the Board will help facilitate more timely responses to NOFOs. Water and Power Systems will report to the Board on a semi-annual basis as outlined below regarding progress related to grant and loan funding applications:

- Submitted applications for Federal, State, and local loan/grant funding opportunities in the prior reporting period.
- Status of any previously submitted applications and expected decision timing.
- Status of any awards and/or unsuccessful applications previously submitted.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

Determine item is exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2). In accordance with this section, an activity is not subject to CEQA if it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Section 15378(b)(5) states that organizational or administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment do not meet that definition. The approval to submit grant and loan applications will not result in any physical change in the environment; therefore, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA.

CITY ATTORNEY

The Office of the City Attorney reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form and legality.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution