



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council **Item No. _____**

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Gateway Water Management Authority Re-Appointments

MEETING DATE: August 5, 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council to consider adopting a resolution re-appointing Gina Nila, Deputy Director of Public Works Operations as the Governing Board Member and Jasmin Elepano, Senior Management Analyst as the designated alternate representative to the Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA) and automatically re-appointed for successive two-year terms unless changed by act of the City Council.

BACKGROUND:

In December 2006, the Gateway Council of Governments (COG) directed the formation of a Gateway Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Group. Fifteen cities and districts within the Gateway Region formed the Gateway IRWM Joint Powers Authority on October 11, 2007, now known as the GWMA. Priorities of the GWMA include both drinking water and stormwater issues, parks and open space planning, water conservation, and regional water planning projects.

Policy direction for the GWMA is provided by a Board of Directors made up of the member agencies. Each member agency appoints one representative staff member and one alternate staff member to the Board. Appointment to a two-year term on the Board of Directors is made by the Member Agencies. Appointees to the Governing Board do not receive any compensation as a Board member. All cities within the Gateway Region are members in addition to the Long Beach Water Department and Central Basin Municipal Water District. Commerce has been a member since 2010. Ms. Nila has served as the City's representative since that time.

Benefits of Continued Membership and Participation

Both the State of California and the Federal government have indicated that future water resources funding will be directed to regional watershed groups that propose coordinated projects to address regional water management problems. Membership in the GWMA positions the City of Commerce for state and federal grant eligibility while providing the City with direct input into the planning, application and implementation processes.

Membership in the GWMA also allows the City to participate in the development of a regional water management plan to address local needs, obtain grant funding, and cost share.

To date, Commerce has benefited from the following joint grants:

1. 2010 - A **\$10 million stormwater grant from federal stimulus money** was awarded to the GWMA to retrofit more than 10,000 catch basins in storm drains tributary to the Los Angeles River. *The City of Commerce received \$670,843 from this grant to retrofit 677 catch basins.*
2. 2016 - A **\$745,902 regional Proposition 84 Grant** from the State Department of Drinking Water for the installation of Advanced Water Meters for drinking water for 11 member agencies including Commerce. 319 meters would be replaced on the municipally-owned Commerce Water System. The City of Commerce executed the sub-recipient Agreement between the member agencies party to this grant and the GWMA on January 17, 2017.
3. 2017 - A **\$10 million Proposition 1 Grant** for the John Anson Ford Park Regional Infiltration Project located in Bell Gardens from the State Water Board for compliance with our Watershed Management Program (WMP) for stormwater. Half of Commerce's streets carry stormwater through catch basins to an outlet pipe that drains to the Rio Hondo River in Bell Gardens. This project will capture this water at the park and infiltrate it to recharge groundwater. Design is nearly complete and bidding expected by September 2019.

Further, most recently, Los Angeles County successfully passed Measure W with a vote of the people which will provide additional designated funding for local and regional stormwater projects and activities. The regional portion of the funding will need to be distributed through a JPA like the GWMA. Local return revenue will be distributed directly to cities beginning in 2020.

ANALYSIS:

At the regular meeting on July 11, 2019, the GWMA Board directed the Executive Officer to prepare a Resolution to amend the Bylaws to authorize all current board members and alternates, regardless of when they were appointed, to be automatically re-appointed for successive terms. Member Agencies will still have discretion to change their appointees whenever they desire or due to a vacancy.

Staff recommends the City continue to participate in the GWMA as an active Board member and adopt the Resolution re-appointing the aforementioned staff.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact for participating in GWMA is \$15,000 per year. Funds are budgeted in Account #10-1570-54027, Environmental Services and would not result in an adverse budgetary impact.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve staff recommendation
2. Disapprove staff recommendation
3. Provide further direction to staff

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

This item is related to a specific 2016 Strategic Goal to “create and pursue opportunities for collaboration and regional partnerships to maximize resources and address regional issues.”

Prepared by: Gina Nila, Deputy Director of Public Works Operations

Reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Finance Director

Approved as to form: Noel Tapia, City Attorney

Respectfully submitted: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution