Western adopts capital improvements plan

RIVERSIDE, CA – Western Municipal Water District (Western) has built an innovative blueprint to guide work on 93 capital projects District-wide through 2024.

Earlier this summer, Western’s Board of Directors approved a Capital Improvement and Facilities Plan (plan) for fiscal year 2019-2020. The capital projects will create, maintain and improve the systems that serve water to Western customers.

The plan sets capital priorities for the current year while forecasting project needs over a five-year span – aligning the project list with Western’s overarching strategic priorities. The report explains which capital projects customers can expect and in what order, providing transparency, consistency and sound long-term planning.

“Western has a robust maintenance and replacement program that continually protects the integrity of our pipes, pumps, and treatment systems to ensure water delivery is not interrupted due to equipment failure,” said General Manager Craig Miller.

The plan for this fiscal year includes improvements to Western’s water and wastewater systems as well as joint projects with partners such as the Chino Desalter Authority, the Santa Rosa Regional Resources Authority and the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority.

This year, Western estimates capital project costs of nearly $38 million, with funding offsets (state and federal grants and loans for example) of almost $21 million. Most of the $17 million in net capital spending will come from the District’s general fund and the Riverside Water Reliability Fund. Approximately $6 million dollars in projects will be constructed in the District’s Murrieta Division.

In all, the plan weighs nearly 100 projects in a five-year forecast of Western’s capital needs. Western prioritized projects through a collaborative, multi-departmental process; staff considered factors including safety, current asset conditions, risk of equipment failure, funding availability and regulatory requirements. Western staff also analyzed individual project workloads and the overall impact to ensure feasibility and timely completion. The plan’s focus is to combine teamwork and service minded planning.
While the plan considers known projects over a five-year span, Western will revisit the priorities each year to ensure a focus on investments that best serve customers, address evolving challenges and meet the District’s most pressing needs.

“Providing customers with the consistent delivery of safe, reliable drinking water is our top priority,” said Miller. “We do that by investing in our system so that it will provide for customers now and for generations to come.”

To learn more about Western’s capital investment plan, visit www.wmwd.com/290/Budgets or call 951.571.7211.

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*Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.*