



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 26, 2023
TO: RRWA Board of Directors
FROM: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Budget Modification for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Work Plan

BACKGROUND

The Executive Programs and Initiatives Committee (EPIC) first convened in December 2022. Since then, EPIC has been considering opportunities to advance regional collaborations within the watershed, including a recommendation to add two new tasks to the 2023-2024 Work Plan through a mid-year budget adjustment: Task C.12 – Grant Support and Task C.13 – Operators Forum. These tasks are also recommended to continue into next fiscal year.

Member agencies currently participating in EPIC are Mendocino County, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, Sonoma Water, and Windsor. Costs for the proposed tasks would be divided evenly between participating agencies. Currently four agencies are proposing the budget adjustment.

[Proposed C.12 – Grant Support](#)

The proposed C.12 – Grant Support task would support grant funding opportunities for participating member agency projects, with RRWA staff researching and reporting upcoming funding opportunities. Regional projects are generally more competitive for grant funding opportunities, making regional coordination a key component of successful grant applications. In addition, significant funding is anticipated to be available in the near term with potential funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and a state Climate Bond on the ballot in 2024. The proposed budget adjustment for this task would add \$16,308 to the 2023-2024 Work Plan with costs to be divided evenly between participating agencies. Current participating agencies are Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, Sonoma Water, and Windsor.

[Proposed C.13 – Operators Forum](#)

The proposed C.13 – Operators Forum task would provide funds for staff to support and facilitate development of an Operators Forum for participating agencies. RRWA staff would convene a quarterly working group comprised of operation staff to identify potential cost saving measures through regional information sharing. RRWA staff would develop summary notes of these meetings to share with participating agency staff and a summary report with recommendations and action items identified throughout the year. EPIC is recommending this task be added to

increase collaboration and identify efficiencies amongst treatment operators that are facing similar challenges, including rate pressures, staffing shortages, regulatory compliance, etc. The proposed budget adjustment for this task would add \$26,576 to the 2023-2024 Work Plan to be divided evenly between participating agencies. Current participating agencies are Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, Sonoma Water, and Windsor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve a budget increase and modification to the 2023-2024 Work Plan in the amount of \$42,884 to add the proposed C.12 – Grant Support and C.13 – Operators Forum tasks with costs to be divided evenly between participating agencies.