



AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: February 19, 2019

Subject: Request to Replace Hydrant Pumper Caps

Prepared by: J. Logan. General Manager

Attachment(s):

1. Letter from Patrick Walter, General Manager PHWD
2. Echologics Proposal for the Purissima Hills Water District

Initiated by: General Manager LAHCFD

Previous Commission Consideration:

None

Fiscal Impact: None

Policy Question(s) for Fire Commission Consideration:

- Will the Board of Commissioners of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (District) approve a request from Purissima Hills Water District (PHWD) to replace approximately two hundred District hydrant pumper caps with integrated leak detector pumper caps in order to detect leaks on its water mains with no direct cost to Fire District?

Summary:

- District owns fire hydrants and shut off valves in the portion of the District served by PHWD; PHWD owns water mains and pipelines between hydrants
- Fire Department utilizes hydrants and water from mains for fire suppression activities
- Advances in technology now provide integrated leak sensors that can be placed in hydrant pumper caps
- PHWD seeks to replace approximately 30 District owned hydrant pumper caps with the leak detector caps upon permission by the District initially and assuming the pilot project goes well to replace approximately two hundred (200) pumper caps
- PHWD Board of Directors approved the pumper cap replacement project at its January 9, 2019 Board meeting
- Santa Clara County Fire Department was contacted and does not believe the leak detection fire hydrant caps will interfere with the Fire Department's use
- Ability to detect water-line leaks is a benefit to the District; is a safety opportunity to promote great pipeline resiliency by early detection and repair of leaks in the water system and could be a benefit for fire suppression services from County Fire

Staff Recommendation:

Approve request from PHWD to replace approximately thirty (30) District owned pumper caps with leak detector pumper caps initially and assuming the pilot project goes well to replace approximately two hundred (200) pumper caps at no direct cost to District and direct staff to prepare for the March 2019, or subsequent meeting, a pumper cap replacement agreement.

Purpose:

Receive information and approved request from PHWD to replace approximately thirty (30) District owned pumper caps with leak detector pumper caps, initially and assuming the pilot project goes well to replace approximately two hundred (200) pumper caps at no direct cost to District.

Background

District owns fire hydrants and valves within the District that connect to PHWD owned water mains and water pipes between hydrants. The Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (County Fire) utilizes District hydrants and water from PHWD mains and pipelines for fire suppression activities. Advances in technology now provide integrated leak sensors that can be placed in hydrant pumper caps. PHWD seeks to replace approximately 30 District owned hydrant pumper caps with the leak detector caps upon permission by the District. PHWD Board of Directors approved the pumper cap replacement project at its January 9, 2019 Board meeting. PHWD General Manager contacted the District staff to request approval for the pumper cap replacement. County Fire was contacted and did not believe the leak detection fire hydrant caps will interfere with County Fire's use. County Fire requested assurances that if access to water is needed from a hydrant and this special cap is damaged, there will be no cost to the County Fire for replacement of the cap. PHWD provided this assurance. County Fire will be consulted with during and after the 30 cap pilot program to help determine if the project should continue to replace approximately 200 caps.

Discussion/Analysis

PHWD provided Attachment 1, Letter from Patrick Walter, General Manager and, Attachment 2, Echologics Proposal for the Purissima Hills Water District. These documents contain information about the leak detector pumper caps, project information and provide a background about the project. If approved to move forward with the pumper cap replacement project, Legal Counsel and the District General Manager will engage with PHWD staff to develop an agreement for the terms, conditions and indemnity to the District. The agreement, once completed, will be presented to the Commission for review and approval. District staff seeks approval and direction from the Commission pursuant to the pumper cap replacement project with PHWD.

Options

1) Approve request from PHWD to replace approximately thirty (30) District owned pumper caps with leak detector pumper caps initially and assuming the pilot project goes well to replace approximately two hundred (200) pumper caps at no direct cost to District ; direct staff to prepare for the March 2019, or subsequent meeting, a pumper cap replacement agreement.

Advantages: Approval will assist PHWD in leak detection which benefits its water users, PHWD and the District to ensure pipelines leaks are detected and fixed and pipelines remain reliable. The condition of pipeline resiliency is a factor for optimum use when fire suppression service are required.

Disadvantages: None identified

2) Do not grant or delay approval pending further analysis from staff; direct staff accordingly

Advantages: None identified.

Disadvantages: Delay in action would result in loss of a safety opportunity to promote great pipeline resiliency by early detection and repair of leaks in the water system

Recommendation

Approve request from PHWD to replace approximately thirty (30) District owned pumper caps with leak detector pumper caps initially and assuming the pilot project goes well to replace approximately two hundred (200) pumper caps at no direct cost to District; direct staff to prepare for the March 2019, or subsequent meeting, a pumper cap replacement agreement