

SUBJECT: PIONEER WATER COMPANY REQUEST FOR EASEMENT

SOURCE: Public Works Department - Field Services

COMMENT: The City has received a request from the Pioneer Water Company (PWC) for an easement to install a pipeline and pump in the Muller Field reservoir. The purpose of the project is to recapture water spilt from the PWC system that collects in holding cells built by the PWC within the City's Muller Field reservoir.

PWC would like to create a smaller holding area for the water in Muller Field reservoir to install a lift pump to pump the spill water into a new pipeline along the north bank of the City owned ditch that feeds into Muller Field from Plano. The new pipeline would be connected back to the PWC system along Plano for redistribution within the PWC system.

PWC estimates 275 acre feet annually are spilt into Muller Field from the PWC system. The City conducts groundwater recharge with the excess water that overflows from the two holding cells.

In February of 2009, the City and PWC entered into a five-year agreement, which has now expired, however, certain provisions of the agreement remain in perpetuity:

- 1) PWC permanently abandoned their pipeline along the south side of Henderson Avenue from Plano Street to Fourth Street; and
- 2) The City will allow excess (or unused) waters from the PWC piping system to discharge to the City's Muller Field. There will be no cost to the City for accepting the unused water. A permanent place will be made available to PWC to accommodate the unused water.

For the project to move forward, PWC needs to obtain easements from the City that would cover Southern California Edison (SCE) installing power lines to the new lift pump, the new pipeline into Muller Field, as well as the pump and piping location within Muller Field.

Staff feels the request should be granted as the City does benefit from the groundwater recharge that occurs from the water that overflows from the holding cells. If the City does not grant the easements, PWC will pursue installing a holding facility at another location, and the City will lose the opportunity for additional groundwater recharge.

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RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Grant the easements requested by PWC for the project to install pipeline, power and pumping facilities into the Muller Field Reservoir; and
2. Authorize the Public Works Director to prepare the necessary documents and record the easements.