



Agenda Report

Agenda of: June 10, 2025

Department: Council

Subject: Discussion and possible action regarding Emergency Generator Power for Water Wells and Emergency Preparedness Plan

Recommended Motion: I move to authorize the City Council to review the City's Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) and direct connection and operations of existing mobile generator to water wells at Lion's Park and City Hall. Transfer switches be installed in each well house and mating connectors installed on the generator. Council purchases an additional generator for water well power.

Background: Texas Water Code Water 13.1394 Standards of Emergency Operations requires cities to have an Emergency Preparedness Plan that describes how it will meet the Code requirements to have emergency power to provide water pressure of at least 20 psi to water customers during an extended power outage. Castroville has four municipal wells with one well strictly devoted to airport use. Of the other three wells, only the one on Highway 90 next to the bank has a generator. That one well would be insufficient to provide water requirements for the city. Historically, the city relied on one half million gallons of water in the storage tank on Cross Hill to handle water requirements during a power outage for about a day or so. With growth and water customers at ever increasing distances, that water tank is likely not able to meet the needs.

The city has had a large emergency generator on a trailer for over 20 years but has not connected it to any well to the best of my knowledge.

To insure we can supply our citizens with critically needed water we must insure we have the ability to pump and distribute potable water during an extended outage by using generator power.

The City has applied for grants for generators for critical City facilities and infrastructure but whether and when those grants will be approved is a gamble. We cannot gamble on a grant to have drinking water when we are able to do it now.

At a May 2025 council meeting, Public Works said they could easily connect the generator to our two wells and operate them. We need to proceed to do that and install needed transfer switches at the wells and mating equipment on the generator and then schedule regular test of that system. Installing and testing the system will remove any uncertainty as to matching the generator with the well pumps and will hasten connection during an emergency.

The City needs to proceed to purchase another generator for the other well.

Fiscal Summary:

Next Steps:

.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

☐ Budgeted ☐ Requires Budget Amendment

Source of Funding:

Attachments:

Urgency (0-5 = Low Urgency to High Urgency): 5

Impact (0-5 = Low Impact to High Impact): 3

Submitted by: Councilman Robert Lee