



TO: FRUITA CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR

FROM: KIMBERLY BULLEN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2025

AGENDA TEXT: RESOLUTION 2025-04 – A Resolution approving a long-term Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with CoWARN as a statewide Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network to prepare for and respond to natural or human-caused emergencies and authorize the Interim City Manager to sign the agreement.

PURPOSE

The mission of the CoWARN network is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response and mutual aid assistance for public and private water and wastewater utilities for natural and human caused events. CoWARN is a partnership between utilities, various state and local agencies, and water and wastewater organizations. Water Wastewater Mutual Aid Networking is essential to enhance emergency response capabilities, optimize resource utilization, foster knowledge sharing, promote community well-being, and strengthen collaboration among water and wastewater utilities. By joining CoWARN and combining forces, utilities can collectively address challenges, improve resilience, and ensure the reliable provision of vital services to communities. Entering into this agreement does not obligate the City of Fruita to provide assistance if requested, the City can decide on a case-by-case basis if it has the resources available to assist.

FISCAL IMPACT

Term: This Agreement shall be effective after the Member (City) executes the Agreement and the applicable Committee Chairperson receives the Agreement. This Agreement shall continue in force and remain binding on each and every Member in perpetuity or until an updated version is adopted, or until the agreement is terminated. Any Member may terminate its participation in this Agreement by providing written notice of its intent to withdraw to the applicable Committee Chairperson or designee. The withdrawal takes effect sixty (60) days after the Committee Chairperson or designee received notice. In sum, the City can participate for as long as it wants to and can leave the network at any time.

Amount: This mutual aid agreement requires requesting Member to reimburse the responding Member for each of the following categories of costs incurred while providing aid and assistance during the specified Period of Assistance. This includes personnel, equipment, and materials and supplies. Members bear the risk of its own actions, as it does with its day-to-day operations.

APPLICABILITY TO CITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This request is applicable to the City of Fruita's goal of Quality of Place. Engaging in a mutual aid agreement for water and wastewater support allows the Public Works Department to provide quality essential infrastructure and services during emergencies.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL

- Authorize the Interim City Manager to sign the long-term mutual aid and assistance agreement with CoWARN.
- Deny Resolution 2025-04.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of staff that the Council by motion:

APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-04 APPROVING A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WITH CoWARN AND AUTHORIZE THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT.