City of Needles, California
Request for Commission Action

☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: March 18, 2025

Title: Authorize the City Manager to execute the 2025 California Forbearance Agreement on behalf of the City of Needles along with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Palo Verde Irrigation District

Background: The City of Needles (City) is considering executing a forbearance agreement (Agreement) with the Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and Palo Verde Irrigation District similar to forbearance agreements like those the City signed in 2023 and 2024 related to water conserved in the Lower Colorado River Basin under the 2007 Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (2007 Interim Guidelines) and implementing agreements.

The Agreement would continue the parties' existing forbearance obligations not to claim a right to the benefit of, the delivery of, or to the diversion of the water conserved through 2026 under specified conservation programs in order to increase storage in Colorado River reservoirs. The Agreement would also extend a 2007 agreement providing for the forbearance of intentionally created surplus (ICS) water created through 2025 and delivered through 2035. The extension would align the forbearance period with guidelines for ICS and its delivery through 2026 and 2036, respectively, as contemplated by the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

There is no impact on the City of Needles' present and perfected water rights.

Fiscal Impact: None

Environmental Impact: Increased conservation of Colorado River water

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to execute the 2025 California Forbearance Agreement on behalf of the City of Needles along with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Palo Verde Irrigation District

Submitted By: Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager
Miles Krieger, BBK Law

City Manager Approval: Patrick J Martinez Date: 3/12/2025

Other Department Approval (when required): _____ Date: _____

Approved: ☐ Not Approved: ☐ Tabled: ☐ Other: ☐

Agenda Item: _____