



City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: April 2, 2024

Title: SB 1188

Background: Senator Laird introduced SB 1188. The bill would require small water systems (under 10,000 connections) to meet minimum standards on technical, managerial, and financial capacity. This would be author-sponsored, and stems from Senator Laird's experiences with Big Basin and San Lucas water systems in his district. While the Board typically looks at TMF guidelines for loans etc., this would give them explicit authority to develop/adopt minimum TMF standards and require reporting of these factors as well (probably through the eAR).

The author's perspective is to get ahead of systems failing by ensuring they meet minimum criteria and if a system is healthy, they will be able to meet the standards. Water systems unable to meet the standards will not be eligible for funding from the state but there are no other "consequences" in the bill like mandatory consolidation.

Needles would be affected by this bill. CMUA spoke with the committee consultant who is writing the analysis for the bill and used Needles as an example of a small system that is run well and not a candidate for consolidation but if this bill were to pass, would benefit from some technical assistance from the Board since Needles has a small staff and this would be a burden.

Staff have provided comments on the proposed bill. From a small water perspective setting these standards without identifying funding sources is a reach. Needles has been successful; however, it would have not been without much support from the SWRCB.

Fiscal Impact: To be determined

Environmental Impact:

Recommended Action: Information Only

Submitted By: Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 3/28/2024

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item: _____