



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** September 9, 2025

**REQUESTER:** Kenneth Giannone

**PRESENTER:** Kenneth Giannone, Capital Projects Engineer

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2526-62: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY, AND CENTRAL OKLAHOMA MASTER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT FOR THE DELIVERY OF TEMPORARY WATER SUPPLY

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### **BACKGROUND:**

Norman's water supply comes from three sources: (1) Surface (raw, untreated) water from Lake Thunderbird that is treated at the Norman Utilities Authority's (NUA's) Vernon Campbell Water Treatment Plant; (2) Ground (well) water from NUA's well field; and (3) Treated water purchased from Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust. The majority of Norman's water comes from Lake Thunderbird at approximately 70% with variations from year to year based on weather conditions. Lake Thunderbird is a federally owned reservoir, operated and maintained by the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District (COMCD), that supplies raw water to the City of Norman, as well as to Del City and Midwest City, with each city being allocated a yearly fixed share of the Lake's available raw water supply.

### **DISCUSSION:**

When the Central Oklahoma region experiences higher-than-normal rainfall, Lake Thunderbird will have periods where the water level in the lake is higher than the defined normal full water level ("conservation pool"). The water stored above the normal full water level is considered the "flood pool" that may be released at the discretion of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in coordination with the management of other water flows within the Little River basin. As such, this water is considered temporary, since it can be released from the Lake. COMCD recently entered into a contract with the United States and obtained permits from Oklahoma Water Resources Board that will allow them to make this temporary water available to its member cities.

NUA has negotiated a contract with COMCD to make purchases from this temporary flood pool water supply. If approved, this contract would be in effect from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2030, and it would give NUA the ability to request that COMCD deliver temporary water whenever it exists in Lake Thunderbird. Temporary water supply would then be delivered under the terms of NUA's contract with an additional surcharge from the federal government per

acre-foot of water used, plus a twenty-five percent (25%) surcharge on this fee, plus direct electrical costs. This temporary water purchased by NUA under the terms of this agreement will not count against City of Norman's fixed yearly allocation of raw water supply from the Lake. This would increase water system flexibility by allowing more water to be treated at Vernon Campbell Water Treatment Plant, thereby allowing the groundwater system to be restored ("recharged") and reducing the likelihood of exceeding the NUA's fixed yearly allocation from Lake Thunderbird.

Funding for temporary water purchases will be from the Water Fund, Utility Services – Conservancy District (Account 31955234-44340).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that Contract K-2526-62 by and between the City of Norman, the Norman Utilities Authority and Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District for the delivery of temporary water supply be approved and executed.