

## **LESJWA BOARD MEMORANDUM NO. 2021.21**

**DATE:** December 16, 2021

**TO:** LESJWA Board of Directors

**SUBJECT:** Written Status Update in Lieu of Meeting

**PREPARED BY:** Mark Norton, P.E., Authority Administrator

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Review the information provided in memorandum no. 2021.21 which is being provided in lieu of a meeting.

### **DISCUSSION**

1. LESJWA staff is working closely with the City of Lake Elsinore, County of Riverside, and EVWMD staff in the preparation of two separate State grant applications that would benefit Lake Elsinore. If both grant applications are successful, over \$7 million could be provided to LESJWA to implement projects to address ongoing water quality challenges facing the lake. The two grant applications are due Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> and will be submitted to the CA Department of Water Resources under their Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program. The title of the two grant projects are listed below. Due to the separate areas of focus on water quality, the partnering agency staff felt that submitting two separate grant applications would be preferred to combining them into one application.
  - a. Lake Elsinore Critical Drought Response Algae Harvesting Project
  - b. Lake Elsinore Critical Drought Response Oxygenation Project
2. LESJWA staff with the assistance of its regulatory advisor consultant, Tess Dunham of KSC, and in partnership with the Lake Elsinore Aeration and Mixing System (LEAMS) operators have submitted a letter and report to the Regional Board to share the results of a study conducted by Dr. Alex Horne and Dr. Michael Anderson to evaluate the existing LEAMS and consider future improvements to improve water quality in Lake Elsinore. The report was the basis for the grant application for the Lake Elsinore Oxygenation Project previously described. The letter also proposes working with the Regional Board staff in evaluating and identifying appropriate criteria for protecting beneficial uses of the lake, renovation of LEAMS, regulatory alternatives, alternative in-lake controls, and timing to implement alternatives.
3. Review with interview of the two Canyon Lake Alum Application proposals submitted as part of an RFP released by LESJWA will be conducted in January 2022 with a recommendation to be brought to the LESJWA Board at its next meeting in February 2022.

4. Planning and outreach is continuing by SAWPA on a four year pilot program to implement Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification that could produce an additional 8-11% increase in precipitation to the watershed and provide increased additional runoff to Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake for lake level stabilization. An informational presentation was shared with the LESJWA Board at its February 2021 meeting. An informational update about the pilot along with a request for a small level of funding support for this program as local cost share with many other local water agencies to a State grant application will be brought to the LESJWA Board in February.
5. Work continues by the ACOE staff on the ACOE Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study for Lake Elsinore in coordination with local agencies.
6. On December 10, 2021 LESJWA received notice from the State Water Resources Control Board staff that the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage (LEAPS) Project's license application was dismissed by FERC due to lack of requested information from the applicant.

**CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS**

None.

**RESOURCE IMPACTS**

None.