



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3095, **Agenda Item #:** 5.

10/14/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Austin, Water and Wastewater System Revenue Bonds, Series 2021D, in the par amount of \$23,100,000 and approve related documents.

Lead Department

Austin Water.

Fiscal Note

There is no anticipated fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

February 21, 2019 - Council approved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for funding from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for a low interest multi-year Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan for multiple wastewater capital improvement projects included in Austin Water's 5-Year CIP plan.

December 10, 2020 - Council approved an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of City of Austin, Texas, Water and Wastewater system revenue bonds, Series 2021A, in the par amount of \$10,400,000.

For More Information:

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Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office at 512-974-2991.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

February 13, 2019 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 10-0 vote with Commissioner Turrieta absent.

Additional Backup Information:

On February 21, 2019, Council authorized the City Manager to apply for a 30-year low interest loan from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) which is administered for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Texas by TWDB. This financial assistance program provides low interest loans to eligible applicants for a wide range of wastewater infrastructure projects.

The CWSRF loan will provide a lower all-in borrowing cost and savings for ratepayers compared to traditional Austin Water revenue bond financing. The interest rate subsidy is up to 165 basis points or 1.65% lower than certain maturities on comparable open market bonds. The reduced interest rates will save ratepayers financing costs for these projects as compared to traditional revenue bond financing for loan terms up to 30 years. The CWSRF loan will be financed as an Austin Water fixed-rate revenue bond to be purchased directly by the TWDB and secured by net revenues of Austin Water. Future CWSRF loan funding will be requested in annual

increments in accordance with Austin Water’s CIP spending plan. This multi-year loan process involves several annual loan closings with potential adjustments to loan terms. This allows Austin Water to receive a funding commitment for the CIP projects, but to close on portions of the funding over a multi-year schedule. The initial loan was approved by Council on January 23, 2020 and closed on February 27, 2020. The 2nd loan was approved by Council on December 10, 2020 and closed on January 22, 2021.

The bond proceeds will cover Austin Water’s Fiscal Year 2021-2022 CIP spending plan costs, with subsequent loan closings proposed in the chart below. This bond ordinance does not obligate the City of Austin to close on additional loan installments with TWDB in future years. Future loan installments will require Council to approve separate bond ordinances. The wastewater infrastructure projects to be funded are as follows:

South Austin Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant - Electric Substation Replacement: This substation powers Trains A and B, the Filters Building, and water reuse facilities. Improvements include the medium voltage power distribution, 12,470 Volt switchgear, and electrical link between Substation No.1 and Substation No. 2. (Plant located in District 2 but will serve a wider area)

Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant - Pumping System Improvements: Improve and upgrade control, reliability, maintainability, and operation of pumping systems in the Primary Treatment Complexes and Operations Building at Walnut Creek WWTP. The following pumping systems have been identified as needing improvements: Primary Sludge and Scum in Primary Treatment Complexes 1 and 2, Settled Wastewater, Raw Wet Well, and Cooling Water. (Plant located in District 1 but will serve a wider area)

Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant - Sludge Thickener Rehab: Replace and upgrade the internal mechanism of the existing thickener, investigate reestablishment of the air system, upgrade the local SCADA system, and assess and replace aged mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation assets. (Plant located in District 1 but will serve a wider area)

TWDB CWSRF Loan - Multi-Year Financing Schedule

Loan Closing Date	Closing Amount	Status
February 2020	\$11,200,000	Actual
January 2021	\$10,400,000	Actual
November 2021	\$23,100,000	Proposed
November 2022	\$8,300,000	Proposed
Total	\$53,000,000	

The ordinance contains the amortization schedule, both principal payments and interest rates, as established by the TWDB prior to the October 14, 2021 meeting.

Strategic Outcome(s):
Government that Works for All.