

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

Consideration and possible action to send a letter in support of California Water Service's Palos Verdes Peninsula Water Reliability Project

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

- (1) Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter in support of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Water Reliability Project.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

Amount Budgeted:	N/A
Additional Appropriation:	N/A
Account Number(s):	N/A

ORIGINATED BY: Kit Fox, AICP, Senior Administrative Analyst 
REVIEWED BY: Gabriella Yap, Deputy City Manager 
APPROVED BY: Doug Willmore, City Manager 

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- A. Draft letter of support (page A-1)
 - B. *Daily Breeze* article (page B-1)
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BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

On September 19, 2017, California Water Service (CalWater) made a [presentation](#) of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Water Reliability Project to the City Council. Staff still awaits the release of the CEQA document for this project for public review and comment. On November 24, 2017, an article about the project was published in the *Daily Breeze* (Attachment B), summarizing the project and its benefits, and noting that the CEQA document for the project would be released "in the coming weeks." In the meantime, however, CalWater has requested letters of support for the project. Therefore, Staff has prepared a support letter for the Mayor's signature (Attachment A).

ALTERNATIVES:

In addition to the Staff recommendation, the following alternative action is available for the City Council's consideration:

1. Do not send a letter in support of the CalWater project.

December 5, 2017

Dan Armendariz
District Manager, Rancho Dominguez
California Water Service
2632 W 237th St.
Torrance, CA 90505

SUBJECT: Support for Palos Verdes Peninsula Water Reliability Project

Dear Mr. Armendariz:

On behalf of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, I want to express our full support for California Water Service's Palos Verdes Peninsula Water Reliability Project (PVPWRP).

California Water Service has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to keeping the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and its residents informed about the PVPWRP, and has made clear efforts to minimize environmental, traffic, and cultural impacts on the community. Moreover, California Water Service's PVPWRP will protect the Palos Verdes Peninsula against the risks of prolonged water outages and will help ensure that the City of Rancho Palos Verdes has access to a reliable water supply for everyday and emergency uses.

We strongly believe that this project will help maintain the excellent quality of life that Rancho Palos Verdes residents currently enjoy. We look forward to the successful completion of this project and ensuring a reliable water source for generations to come.

Sincerely,

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Mayor

cc: Rancho Palos Verdes City Council
Doug Willmore, City Manager
Gabriella Yap, Deputy City Manager
Kit Fox, Senior Administrative Analyst

LOCAL NEWS

Palos Verdes Peninsula water system slated for \$60 million, 18-month upgrade

By **CYNTHIA WASHICKO** | cwashicko@scng.com | Daily Breeze

November 23, 2017 at 12:16 pm

1 COMMENT

The Palos Verdes Peninsula's aging water system, nearing the end of its lifespan, is getting a much-needed upgrade.

California Water Service has proposed a \$60 million overhaul to the decades-old system that calls for the installation of seven miles of new pipeline and a new pump station in Rolling Hills Estates.

To help cover the costs of the project, Cal Water customers likely will have to pony up an additional \$30 a month for an average residential water bill and \$150 a month for an average commercial bill, said Daniel Armendariz, district manager for Cal Water.

However, those rate increases won't take effect until after the project is complete, he said, and will require approval by the state Public Utilities Commission before they can be put in place by 2020 at the earliest.

Aging system

As it stands now, the majority of water is pumped onto the Hill via a single pipeline that reaches the highest point in the area and then uses gravity to spread the water to homes and businesses.

The problem is that if that single pipeline is damaged in an emergency, or otherwise has to be taken offline, it could leave the majority of Peninsula residents without a reliable source of water. Currently, reservoirs on the Peninsula hold about 31 million gallons of water, enough for about a day of use, officials said at a January meeting of the Rolling Hills Estates City Council.

And a damaged pipe isn't anywhere outside the realm of possibility.

The pipeline that currently takes water to the top of the Hill is about the end of the lifespan for the type of steel pipe used in the system. There's no immediate threat of the pipeline failing, but replacing it before it reaches that point is an important safety step, Armendariz said.

"That line is over 60 years old and we've had minor repairs, (but) thankfully nothing major," he said.

Seven-mile route

The new line will run west along Palos Verdes Drive North from Montecillo Drive before it runs along part of the Dapplegray Elementary School campus and then along a trail to Rolling Hills Road. It will then run along another trail on the border of the South Coast Botanic Garden before it intersects with Crenshaw Boulevard, which it will follow until Crest Road.

Construction on the so-called Palos Verdes Peninsula Water Reliability Project will last throughout the rest of 2018 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of the following year.

The new line and related systems will be kept on a separate electrical grid from the current water infrastructure, Armendariz said, as an added safety measure in case one of the electrical grids goes offline.

The goal, he said, is to improve the reliability and safety of the overall water system on the Peninsula.

"We just said, it's time to create some sustainability for the basic way of life that people on the Peninsula have," Armendariz said.

Concern over route

Among the portions of the project that garnered some concern among city officials and residents is a plan to install part of the pipeline along the horse trail adjacent to Palos Verdes Drive North, a major thoroughfare onto and off of the east end of the Peninsula.

That was something Cal Water took into account, Armendariz said, and the agency ultimately changed its original course for the work to avoid as much of the street as possible.

"We really looked at the traffic impact and, everywhere we could, we tried to get the pipe out of Palos Verdes Drive North," he said. "We know what that road is like coming in and out."

Other portions of the project are tentatively scheduled to keep disruption in the community to a minimum as well, he said.

A portion of the project that will require pipe installation on parts of the Dapplegray Elementary School campus is set for summer 2018, for example, to keep construction from impacting school activities.

And the agency has spent months working with Rolling Hills Estates officials to design the project in a way to best keep the construction work from throwing a wrench in residents' daily lives, said Rolling Hills Estates Planning Director David Wahba.

"We've had a number of meetings with them and we're ... on the same page, recognizing that, yes, there will be traffic impacts, particularly on Palos Verdes Drive North, but we are going to do what we can to minimize that," Wahba said.

An environmental report on the project will be available in the coming weeks, he said, and the proposal will go to the Rolling Hills Estates City Council for approval early next year before construction kicks off in the summer.

More information and updates will be available on the project website, pvpwaterproject.com, and on the project's Facebook page, facebook.com/pvpwaterproject.



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Cynthia Washicko started covering the Palos Verdes Peninsula for the Daily Breeze in 2016. Before joining the Breeze she covered business and local news for papers on the Oregon and Washington coasts. She's an Orange County native and Cal State Fullerton alum who enjoys traveling and has a particular knack for killing house plants. Restaurant recommendations and story tips are [perpetually welcome](#).

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