



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 24

Agenda Date: January 30, 2025

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Public Works Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Razi Hosseini

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with San Antonio Water System

SUMMARY:

An ordinance approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of San Antonio and San Antonio Water System (SAWS) for coordination and management of bond program projects.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) have historically collaborated to align the City's Public Works Bond projects with SAWS capital infrastructure projects. This joint approach aims to incorporate relevant SAWS utility work where appropriate. Both the City and SAWS understand the public benefits of coordinating their projects, which include reducing overall costs, minimizing street closures and public disruptions, and accelerating project completion. Given the scale and number of these projects, close coordination is essential to ensure timely delivery during the Bond Program cycle.

At the beginning of each new five-year bond cycle, the City reviews the previous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements with its utility partners. This review allows for updates based

on lessons learned from the last program. The proposed improved MOU clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of both the City and SAWS during the design and construction phases of joint projects, particularly focusing on ongoing construction efforts. This agreement establishes a framework for cooperation and coordination, ensuring that city projects can move forward in a timely and cost-effective manner for the benefit of both city residents and SAWS customers.

ISSUE:

This ordinance approves a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to coordinate and manage bond program projects.

The revised MOU clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of both the City and SAWS during the design and construction phases of joint projects, with a particular focus on ongoing construction efforts. This agreement creates a framework for collaboration and coordination, ensuring that city projects can proceed in a timely and cost-effective manner for the benefit of city residents and SAWS customers. The proposed MOU agreement is effective for a five-year term unless the City and SAWS mutually decide to terminate.

The framework of the proposed agreement includes guiding principles that promote consistent communication and coordination throughout the entire lifecycle of bond projects, emphasizing pre-planning and scheduling. It ensures accurate, consistent, and effective messaging with contractors, stakeholders, affected property owners, the press, and the public. Additionally, it facilitates the timely resolution of issues and the clear communication of project objectives and expectations. The proposed agreement also specifies the roles and responsibilities of both the City and SAWS in identifying existing infrastructure, managing joint bid and high-risk projects, reimbursing costs, and resolving disputes.

Approval of this ordinance will reinforce the City's commitment to maintaining and improving existing infrastructure in collaboration with other partner agencies.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatively, City Council could choose not to approve the MOU with SAWS. However, by doing so, the City would miss the chance to collaborate with SAWS, which would deviate the City's commitment to maintaining and enhancing infrastructure through partnerships with other agencies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding agreement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance authorizing the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of San Antonio and San Antonio Water System for coordination and management of bond program projects.