Bartell Parcel Recycled Water Regreening Demonstration Project (BPRWP)

Overview:

The County of Inyo is proposing to develop a local water recycling facility with a distribution system that will provide crop irrigation in Big Pine, California. The project provides treated wastewater from the Big Pine Community Service District's (BPCSD) wastewater ponds to irrigate a reclaimed-water appropriate crop on a 5.5 acre parcel with frontage on Highway 395.

The town of Big Pine and the Bartell parcel are within Disadvantaged Community Block Groups, and Places, as shown on the California Department of Water Resources DAC Map. The project adjoins the Big Pine Elementary and High School, and is bordered on two sides by the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley (BPPT) Reservation. Pamela Jones, Director of Curriculum for Inyo County Superintendent of Schools, and the Big Pine Unified Schools Superintendent will participate in project development. The project could be designed as an educational resource that feeds into the District's Expeditionary Learning curriculum. Eighty percent of the families of students at Big Pine Elementary and High School have earnings below the poverty line.

Additional partners may include the BPPT and/or the BPPT's Development Corporation. The project infrastructure could be scaled up to include the BPPT's neighboring wastewater ponds, which are larger than the CSD's ponds and closer to the project. The combined recycled supply could provide water to irrigate tribal lands not currently receiving water.

LADWP owns the Bartell parcel. Informal conversations about the project with LADWP's staff have been very positive and encouraging. LADWP leadership seems committed to see such a community project develop on the site.

With the current drought, and water shortages facing California, and local water availability strained by year-after-year low runoff, water recycling should be a part of the mix of the community water supply. This would be the first of its kind water recycling project in Inyo County, and would serve to demonstrate the potential for similar systems. This carefully designed and executed system would serve as a blueprint for similar projects that could be built in the IRWMP planning area.

The parcel would be prepared to receive crop irrigation and would be fenced and gated. Water, which is treated to conform to appropriate California Code Title 22 standards, would be pumped 1.6 miles in buried 4" PVC pipe from the BPCSD wastewater facility to the project site. Irrigation, and crop development, would conform to all applicable Title 22 standards.

California Recycled Water Policy actively promotes the development of water saving environmentally beneficial projects as expressed in this quote from the State Water Board's Resolution 2013-0003.

> "…We strongly encourage local and regional water agencies to move toward clean, abundant, local water for California by emphasizing appropriate water recycling, water conservation, and maintenance of supply infrastructure and the use of stormwater (including dry-weather urban runoff) in these plans; these sources of supply are drought-proof, reliable, and minimize our carbon footprint and can be sustained over the long-term."

The BPRWP is proposed in the spirit of supporting the Water Board's resolve.

The County meets all applicable Authorization and Eligibility Requirements called for in the Department of Water Resources Proposal Solicitation Package.

Inyo County has received Prop. 84 funding in previous rounds.

Tasks:

The project is in the planning stage. LADWP has voiced strong support for the project to County Leadership.

Inyo County Planning, Public Works, and Environmental Health Departments, and well as the operator of the (BPCSD) wastewater system have all been consulted to assess project feasibility. Through efforts of preparing this grant proposal key stakeholders expressed strong support for such a project, leading us to believe with additional community outreach efforts, many other key stakeholders will be supportive.

Next steps are to receive additional community and stakeholder input on the project; identify and secure easements required to convey water from the ponds to the project site (approximately 1.6 miles); determine whether current effluent is suitable for reuse and if not identify/design/construct improvements necessary; identify/design/construct suitable pipe layout to convey effluent from treatment site to use site; identify/design/construct suitable distribution system; complete one CEQA analysis for the entirety of the above tasks; secure new WDR or other permits for treatment facility from Regional Water Quality Control Board; secure permits for use of the reclaimed water from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Schedule:

Summer-Fall 2015: Community consultation and development of a conceptual site plan
Spring-Summer 2016: Engineering study and report
Summer-Fall 2016: CEQA and permitting
Winter 2016: Begin construction
Spring 2016: Project completion

The BPRWP will be designed with a service life of at least 20 years. The project will be maintained and supported by The County of Inyo and other project partners.

Budget:

The Project could be phased to include a Project Planning phase ($106,250) and Project Implementation phase ($229,800).

Category	Requested Grant Amount	Cost Share: Non-State Fund Source	Cost Share: Other State Fund Source	Total Cost
(a) Direct Project Administration (Proposal Preparation)				
IC Water Department, assisted by Public Works, Planning, and Environmental Health	**$5,250**	**DAC**	**DAC**	**$5,250**
(b) Land Purchase/Easement				
Parcel Lease (four years)	**$3,600**	**DAC**	**DAC**	**$3,600**
(c) Planning/Design/ Engineering/ Environmental Documentation				
Engineering study and report	**$35,000**	**DAC**	**DAC**	**$35,000**
Final design and construction drawings	**$35,000**	**DAC**	**DAC**	**$35,000**
CEQA and permitting	**$31,000**	**DAC**	**DAC**	**$31,000**
(d) Construction/ Implementation				
Secondary water treatment facility and pump	**$30,000**	**DAC**	**DAC**	**$30,000**
Water conveyance installation	**$165,000**	**DAC**	**DAC**	**$165,000**
Site preparation and crop development	**$30,000**	**DAC**	**DAC**	**$30,000**
Interpretative signage	**$1,200**	**DAC**	**DAC**	**$1,200**
(e) Grand Total	**$336,050**			**$336,050**