

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: WELL FIELD STANDBY POWER PROJECT HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

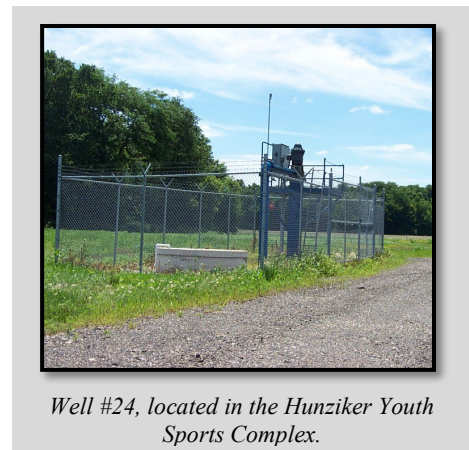
BACKGROUND:

Iowa's Water Supply Design Standards require that a water system have redundant electrical power available. Although the Water Treatment Plant has backup power, the utility's water wells do not. Installing standby electrical power to these wells would allow the water utility to continue to produce treated water, at a reduced capacity, in the event of a prolonged power outage or other emergency conditions. The water supply was severely threatened during the 2020 derecho and several other past flooding events.

The approved FY 2021/22 CIP includes a project to install standby electrical power for the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex (HYSC) and add "quick connect" electrical connections for portable generators to wells in the Southeast Well Field. The wells located in these two well fields are the highest capacity wells in the City's inventory.

The Water and Pollution Control Department is submitting an application through the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding from the Hazard Mitigation Assistance program in the total project amount of \$984,000 for design, purchase, and installation of a standby generator to power at least three wells in the HYSC.

The State of Iowa will receive FEMA disaster funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as part of Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4557-IA (August 17, 2020) because of severe storms and flooding that occurred in Iowa in 2020. The grant is a cost share program which means that awarded grants will be funded as follows: Federal (FEMA) share of total eligible costs – 75% maximum, State of Iowa – 10% maximum, Local – 15% minimum. Local share of the cost can be either cash or an in-kind match.



Well #24, located in the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex.

FEMA requires the requesting utility to obtain a resolution pledging the required 15% local match. The FY 2021/22 budget includes Water Utility Funds of \$246,000 for the City's match portion of the grant for the Well Field Standby Power Project.

Additional emergency power improvements are included in the following separate CIP projects:

- The SAM Pump Station Improvements, which will provide emergency power for both the pump station and elevated tank
- The North River Valley Well Field Project, which will add three new wells protected by a dedicated emergency generator
- The Old Water Plant Demolition/TSC Improvements project, which will include an emergency generator that will protect the TSC building (including the Laboratory) and the High Service Pump Station.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve up to \$246,000 of local monies to be used to meet the minimum local match requirement of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant application for the Well Field Standby Power Project.
2. Do not authorize the matching local funds, thereby foregoing FEMA grant funding.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The approved FY 2021/22 Capital Improvements Plan includes a project to install emergency standby power to the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex Well Field, with a portion of the funding coming from a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant. As a result of the 2020 derecho storm event, the State of Iowa will receive FEMA disaster funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. If the City's application is approved, this grant will provide the necessary funding to complete the well field standby power project, ensuring drinking water to the Ames community during a disaster.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.