

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 5**

**SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CERTIFICATION AND SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFER GRANT WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD SUPPORTING THE CAMERON CORNERS WATER CONSOLIDATION PROJECT AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 2)**

**OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego's Department of Public Works (DPW) intends to pursue grant funding to advance critical drinking water infrastructure improvements. This State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) grant supports the evaluation and development of drinking water infrastructure to consolidate multiple small water systems and properties in the Campo/Cameron Corners area of southeast San Diego County. The primary objectives of consolidation are to improve water supply reliability, achieve compliance with the State's California Safe Drinking Water Standards, and enhance operational efficiency throughout the region. The Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program advances environmental justice by prioritizing communities that have historically lacked reliable access to safe drinking water. By supporting the consolidation of small, disadvantaged water systems and improving infrastructure, the program helps ensure equitable access to clean, reliable water and strengthens long-term community resilience.

SWRCB administers the SAFER grant, which requires DPW to obtain a resolution and certification adopted by the Board of Supervisors to apply for this grant. The proposed action to approve and delegate authority to DPW to apply for and accept SAFER grant funds will streamline the application process and ensure timely access to critical external funding opportunities. This grant supports the evaluation and development of infrastructure to consolidate multiple small water systems and properties in the Campo/Cameron Corners area of southeast San Diego County. The primary objectives of consolidation are to improve water supply reliability, achieve compliance with California Safe Drinking Water Standards, and enhance operational efficiency throughout the region. Staff will return to the Board as necessary to establish appropriations and revenue for grants that are awarded as well as for construction of the project.

This is a request to adopt a resolution authorizing the DPW Director, and/or their designee(s) to submit, negotiate, accept and execute all documents necessary to secure grant funding from the SAFER program.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find in accordance with Section 15061 (b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines that delegating authority to allow application for and acceptance of possible grant funding is exempt from CEQA review because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the activity may have a significant effect on the environment.

2. Authorize the Department of Public Works (DPW) Director or designee, to submit, negotiate, and execute all documents necessary to apply for and secure the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) grant.
3. Adopt a Resolution in the form developed by the State agency administering the SAFER grant program entitled: AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE.
4. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires full cost recovery for services provided under grants.
5. Authorize the Clerk of the Board to attest to the accuracy of the Resolution and take such other action as may be necessary to demonstrate the Board's adoption of the Resolution.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Grant funding plays a vital role in supporting infrastructure improvements and essential services for communities across San Diego County, including the protection of agricultural lands and the development of modern water systems. These investments not only advance environmental and economic goals but also directly address environmental justice concerns. By improving water supply reliability, ensuring access to safe drinking water, and implementing long-term drinking water solutions, the County promotes equitable outcomes, particularly for communities that have historically faced systemic barriers to clean and sustainable water resources.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions support the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goal of protecting the health and well-being of everyone in the region, with a focus on collaborating with community partners and stakeholders and advocating for environmental justice for communities that have been disproportionately impacted by lack of safe drinking water. Approval of today's actions will further enhance the County's activities to develop sustainable drinking water solutions.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no current fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. If approved and grants are awarded, staff will return to the Board to appropriate grant funds. If grants require matching funds, matching funds will be provided by available funds managed by the Department of Public Works (DPW). A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the proposed grant funding may not offset all administrative costs. The funding source for potential unrecovered costs will be provided by available funds managed by DPW. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, and adopted Resolution No. 26-021 entitled: AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE

AYES: Aguirre, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Anderson

State of California)  
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter