

**ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STAFF REPORT**

For the meeting of October 9, 2019

To: Board of Directors

From: Jason Weber, Fire Chief

Subject: Information Regarding Marin Municipal Water Districts Fire Flow Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive staff report regarding Marin Municipal Water Districts Fire Flow Program, direct staff, as necessary.

BACKGROUND:

Fire-flow is the term firefighters use to describe how much water can be delivered by a water system through one or more hydrants to fight a fire at a specific location or to state the optimum amount (standard) of water flow firefighters require for a theoretical fire at a specific location. The former is determined by a pipe's size, pressure, and internal condition and the latter is based on standards developed over years of experience. To meet fire-flow standards, a water distribution system must deliver large amounts of water in a short period of time, whereas for daily use, water systems provide small amounts of water on a continuing basis.

A first-ever master plan for making fire-flow improvements in central and southern Marin was begun following voter approval in 1996. Voters agreed to pay an annual \$75 parcel fee for the next 15 years to raise \$62 million as part of a \$77 million effort to provide additional water flow for fighting fires and to help ensure the integrity of our water transmission system following a major earthquake.

In 2012 the MMWD Board of Directors approved extending the \$75 annual fire flow fee for an additional 19 years (2012-2031). The fee will fund such water system improvements as the replacement of approximately 52 miles of inadequate pipe and seismic stabilization/retrofits at pump stations and pipe bridges.

This plan with the help of fire officials, city managers, and public works directors continues to be implemented. It should be noted that construction costs are rising faster than the original escalator used to develop the plan. MMWD reports regularly to city and county officials, whose joint efforts led to development of the plan.

The plan referenced above for years 2012-2031 can be found at the following link:

<https://www.marinwater.org/DocumentCenter/View/1676/Fire-Flow-Improvement-Program-Project-List>

Attachment:

MMWD Fire Flow Program – Proposed Piping Replacement

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact to RVFD with the exception of staff time to prepare the report.

AGENDA ITEM # 5
Date 10/9/19