



Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item – {{section.number}}.B.

City Council Meeting
May 19, 2025



Strategic Priority 5: Resilient Infrastructure

Maintain and invest in resilient infrastructure that creates the highest return for safety, community connectivity, enjoyment of life, and local economic success.

Subject: Authorize the Reallocation of Savings from Northridge Water Tanks Replacement Project Account to the Meter Purchase Replacement Capital Account; and Authorize the Sole Source Purchase of SENSUS Commercial Meters from Core & Main

Prepared By: Roger Harshman, Utilities Water Distribution Superintendent
Andrea Song, Utilities Manager

Recommended City Council Action:

1. Authorize the reallocation of \$1,200,000 from the Northridge Water Tanks Replacement project to the Meter Purchase Replacement capital account.
2. Authorize the expenditure of \$1,200,000 for the remaining SENSUS commercial meters from the sole source vendor, Core & Main.

Summary Statement:

- In 2020, all residential water meters up to one inch were upgraded to the new SENSUS Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). This project excluded approximately 2,400 commercial meters.
- These older commercial meters are being replaced at a slower rate due to limited operational funds. Currently, about 850 remain in service and are failing rapidly; it is estimated that it will take another eight years to replace them at the current funding level. Consequently, customers with these older meters cannot access the AMI customer portal. Utilizing the savings in the Northridge Water Tanks Replacement capital project and reallocating them will complete the replacement of the remaining approximate 850 failing commercial meters.
- Commercial customers having access to AMI provides them with frequent valuable water usage data. AMI can help customers monitor and manage their consumption patterns and identify leaks

before their bill comes.

- Westminster Municipal Code requires authorization by City Council for sole source purchases over \$50,000 and cumulative purchases over \$250,000.
- Adequate funds are available in 2025 for this purchase through the reallocation of savings from the Northridge Water Tanks Replacement project to the Meter Purchase Replacement capital account.

Fiscal Impact:

Not to exceed \$1,200,000 in expenditures.

Source of Funds:

Utility Capital Improvement Fund: Reallocated Northridge Water Tanks Replacement Project Savings to the Meter Purchase Replacement Account

Policy Issue(s):

Should City Council authorize the use of \$1,200,000 in savings from the Northridge Water Tanks Project Replacement to purchase the remaining SENSUS commercial meters from the sole vendor, Core & Main, to complete the replacement of failing commercial meters?

Alternative(s):

City Council has the option not to approve the purchase of the remaining SENSUS commercial meters using project savings from the Northridge Water Tanks Replacement project. Staff advises against this alternative. The existing meters, which reached their 10-year lifespan in 2017, are failing, requiring Staff to manually conduct monthly readings in what are often hazardous confined spaces. Additionally, customers lack access to the online AMI portal reducing their ability to manage their consumption in real-time.

Background Information:

All residential water meters up to one inch were upgraded in 2020 to the new SENSUS Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). The project excluded approximately 2,400 commercial meters that are being replaced at a slower rate due to limited operational funds. Approximately 850 commercial meters remain in service and are failing rapidly. Based on current annual funding levels, it is estimated that it will take another eight years to replace them. Consequently, customers with these older meters cannot access the AMI customer portal and Staff manually has to conduct monthly readings in many cases, which is inefficient.

Reallocating the savings from the Northridge Water Tanks Replacement capital project and approving the purchase and installation of the remaining SENSUS approximate 850 replacement commercial meters will allow Staff to efficiently expedite the replacement of these old and failing commercial meters. Replacing these meters will enable higher-use customers to access and benefit from the City's water customer AMI portal. The City has standardized the use of SENSUS brand for all of its water meters and Core & Main is currently the only distributor for these meters.

The authorization to purchase these commercial meters helps the City achieve the Strategic Priority of Resilient Infrastructure by ensuring that repair and replacement of the City's infrastructure is accomplished when needed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jody L. Andrews', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jody L. Andrews
City Manager