

RESOLUTION NO. 21-418

AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE CALIFORNIA LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020 Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, issued Executive Order N-33-20 to require individuals to stay at home except as needed to maintain continuity of critical operations, issued Executive Order N-42-20 prohibiting discontinuation of water service indefinitely, and issued Executive Order N-60-20 that created a risk-based approach to reopening the economy; and

WHEREAS, the stay at home order and risk-based reopening framework were rescinded on June 11, 2021 by Executive Order N-07-21 and many provisions of other Executive Orders were phased out by Executive Order N-08-21 including establishing an end date for the disconnection of water moratorium on September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature passed SB 155 on September 9, 2021 extending the prohibition on the disconnection of water service until December 31, 2021, and the Governor is anticipated to sign into law; and

WHEREAS, there have been economic impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health measures, including leaving many Californians unable to pay their water and wastewater bills due to lack of reliable and consistent employment; and

WHEREAS, low-income community members have been disproportionately affected by the impacts of COVID-19, making assistance critically important; and

WHEREAS, in response to the economic conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Section 6 of the State Budget Act of 2021, as established by Assembly Bill No. 135 (Chapter 85, Statutes of 2021), created the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) within the Community Services and Development Department (CSD) to reduce delinquent water and wastewater balances income eligible customers experiencing difficulties in paying their water and wastewater bills; and

WHEREAS, funding for LIHWAP is payable from the State's share of the federal Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund of 2021; and

WHEREAS, eligible customers make sixty percent or less of the state median income, and have a past due balance and are at risk of discontinuation of service; and

WHEREAS, the LIHWAP program is modeled after the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), to receive LIHWAP funding customers must apply with a Local Service Provider (LSP); and

WHEREAS, to receive direct funding from the State, Roseville must enter into agreement to receive funds to apply directly to customer accounts; and

WHEREAS, income eligible customers are may receive up to \$1,000 for both water and wastewater past due bills, once every twelve-months; and

WHEREAS, the CSD must expend all funds no later than September 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City of Roseville operates a community water system and wastewater system with income eligible customers that have past due bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City, that the City of Roseville's participation in LIHWAP is hereby approved and that the City Manager or his designee is authorized to execute program-related documents on behalf of the City of Roseville; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby authorizes the City of Roseville to accept and apply LIHWAP funds as a credit on qualified customer accounts in the amount not to exceed \$1,000 for water and wastewater services in a twelve-month period.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Roseville this ____ day of _____, 20__, by the following vote on roll call:

AYES COUNCILMEMBERS:

NOES COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT COUNCILMEMBERS:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Clerk