

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: William M. Paparian
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2026 12:15 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; cityclerk; Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Written Public Comment – Consent Calendar Item 1 – Acceptance of \$959,752 EPA Community Grant for Sunset Complex Groundwater Treatment Plant

[1] **CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button (PAB). For more information about the PAB view article "KB0011474" on the DoIT portal.

Mayor Gordo, Members of the City Council, and City Manager:

I request that Consent Calendar Item 1 be pulled for brief discussion.

The action before you is limited to accepting previously awarded federal funds and does not itself approve construction. That distinction is important. However, acceptance will subject related work to federal requirements, including Davis-Bacon prevailing wages and Build America, Buy America domestic-content rules, which typically increase costs and administrative burden. The \$959,752 grant is modest relative to the overall Sunset Complex project, estimated in the \$75–80+ million range and funded primarily through the Water Fund and ratepayers.

Two project-level issues remain relevant even at this stage:

The existing reservoirs (approximately 15.5 million gallons) that serve roughly one-quarter of the city's demand would be replaced with tanks totaling 11 million gallons. While the existing structures are already operated below design capacity because of leakage and have known seismic deficiencies, the Council should confirm on the record that operational and fire-flow requirements will still be fully met.

The draft Environmental Impact Report identified a significant and unavoidable impact on historical resources from demolition of the 125+-year-old complex.

Before the City formally accepts the funds and the associated compliance obligations, the public and Council would benefit from a short update on total project costs, the capacity trade-off, the status of the EIR and Conditional Use Permit, and the expected ratepayer impact.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Respectfully,

William Paparian

10/27/2026
Item 1