



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

TO: Ed Lavallee, City Manager

FROM: Len Bramble, P.E., Utilities Director

DATE: October 18, 2013

SUBJECT: **FreshKeeper Project Feasibility Study
Cooperative Funding**

Background:

Aquifer level recovery and water quality improvement are two of Southwest Florida Water Management District's (SWFWMD) strategic initiatives. Two of the city's wellfields; Western Wellfield and Eastern Wellfield, lie within the Southern Water Use Caution Area Most Impacted Area (MIA). The quality of water from the wellfields limits recovery of the treatment process to 50 percent. Further, because of the wellfields' locations, additional future withdrawals to meet future public supply are likely to be limited.

FreshKeeper is a concept developed in the Netherlands. The feasibility study will evaluate the FreshKeeper concept as a means to improve water quality, restore aquifer levels, and increase water supply without additional withdrawals from the aquifer. The study consists of a desktop study to determine the applicability of the FreshKeeper concept, and the drilling of a test well to better characterize the hydrogeology and water quality within the aquifer in our region of the SWFWMD MIA and coastal Sarasota County. The estimated cost of the feasibility study is \$450,000, with the City paying no more than 50% or \$225,000. It is anticipated that the Dutch government will likely participate financially in this project as well, perhaps at 33% or more, which would further reduce the City's costs.

Requested Action:

We request council's endorsement of this application of Cooperative Funding in an amount not to \$225,000 (SWFWMD's share with no Dutch participation) for the FreshKeeper Project Feasibility Study, and to accept funds if selected.

City Attorney Review:

The City Attorney has reviewed this document and finds it to be in proper legal form.

Risk Management Review:

The Risk Manager has reviewed this document and finds no risk management objections.

Funds Availability:

Based on council approval, funds are available in account number 421-1203-533.31-00.