

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: December 10, 2024

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Courtney Driver, Utilities Director
Aaron King, Assistant City Manager

Council Action Requested:
Resolution Requesting Approval of an Application for Federal Funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Lead Service Line Replacement Program

Strategic Focus Area: Financial Viability
Strategic Objective: Maintain Financial Strength
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utilities (WSFC Utilities) recently completed its initial service line inventory to identify and map potential lead sources in its distribution system. The service line inventory was necessary to meet compliance requirements set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), which were published in the Federal Registry on October 8, 2024.

EPA’s LCRR and LCRI requires drinking water systems to eliminate lead in public and private service lines within a ten-year window beginning in 2027. As part of the ongoing efforts to eliminate lead, WSFC Utilities has identified areas of potential lead service lines and galvanized service lines requiring replacement, many of which are in potentially underserved areas.

Committee Action:

Committee	PW 12/10/24	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks:

WSFC Utilities intends to initiate a Lead Service Line Replacement Project to proactively eliminate sources of lead, while also benefiting disadvantaged areas of the community. The project includes replacement of service lines both within the public rights-of-way and on private property, where the material is currently identified as lead or galvanized.

The Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$15 billion nationwide towards Lead Service Line Replacement through Drinking Water State Revolving Fund over five years. With this investment, 49% of funds will be provided to communities as principal forgiveness loans to disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged areas and 51% of funds will be available as low-interest loans.

Funding cycles occur every two months and the maximum amount per cycle is \$2,000,000 for Find and Replace Projects and \$5,000,000 for Replacement Projects. On November 1, 2024, WSFC Utilities applied for \$2,000,000 to fund Find & Replace Projects. Projects under this category include inventory/material verification and lead service line replacements. The State Water Infrastructure Authority (SWIA) will meet on December 10, 2024, to review this application. It is the intent of WSFC Utilities to apply for \$5,000,000 under the Replacement Projects category this next funding cycle to fund strictly Replacement Projects, and each funding cycle thereafter until funds are either exhausted or the project is fully funded. A local match is not required for this loan. WSFC Utilities requests the City Council of the City of Winston-Salem approve an application for funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Lead Service Line Replacement Program for future cycles as needed.