

## REPORT FROM

# OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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Date: September 24, 2025

CAO File No. 0220-06348-0000

Council File No. 21-1015-S18

Council District: ALL

To: The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Subject: **FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT APPLICATIONS: AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT TWO APPLICATIONS FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, OFFICE OF WATER, OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER – MIDSIZE AND LARGE DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM - FY 2025**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), or designee, to prepare and submit two grant applications for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Midsize and Large Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program - FY 2025; and,
2. Instruct the General Manager of LADWP, or designee, to report back if the City is awarded the grants, to request authority to accept the grant awards, and to request approval for any related actions to implement the grant awards.

## DISCUSSION

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) submitted two project prioritization forms in response to a notification of funding opportunity from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program – FY 2025.

On August 5, 2025, the EPA Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) released a notice of funding availability for a Midsize and Large Drinking Water System (MLDWS) Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program - FY 2025 grant. The purpose of this grant is to support projects that increase the resilience of midsize and large drinking water systems to natural hazards, extreme weather events, or that reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities with strategies such as the conservation of water or the enhancement of water use efficiency, or the modification or relocation of existing drinking water system infrastructure at risk of being impaired by natural hazards or extreme weather events. Application submissions for the grant are due on October 6, 2025.

This Office received two project proposals from LADWP for the MLDWS Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program – FY 2025 grant, one for an “Earthquake Resistant Pipeline Mainline Installation Program” and one for the “Landscape Efficiency Assistance Program (LEAP)”.

#### Earthquake Resistant Pipeline Mainline Installation Program

LADWP will apply for funds in the amount of \$2.375 million for their Earthquake Resistant Pipeline Mainline Installation Program. This program will retrofit and upgrade existing water distribution mains in hazard-prone corridors with earthquake and subsidence-resistant materials and joint systems, ensuring continuity of potable water supply and reducing risk of catastrophic failure during seismic, subsidence, or flood events. The proposed retrofit will focus on strengthening the reliability and seismic performance of the water distribution system through the targeted pipeline replacement and rehabilitation. This program increases drinking water system resilience of public water systems to natural hazards, specifically earthquakes.

#### Landscape Efficiency Assistance Program (LEAP)

LADWP will apply for funds in the amount of \$2.375 million for their Landscape Efficiency Assistance Program (LEAP). LEAP provides free landscape direct install services to eligible customers living within disadvantaged communities within the City of Los Angeles on a first come, first served basis. Eligible customers will have the option to either replace their existing turf with California-friendly landscaping or upgrade their existing sprinkler system with high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles. The program is anticipated to convert 700 to 1,000 private property residences, which will reduce water consumption and establish sustainable practices, contributing to the City’s water use efficiency goal.

The estimated duration for each project is four years with a potential completion date of May 2030.

#### Applicant Eligibility and Availability of Funding

Applicants eligible to receive financial assistance to fund activities under the MLDWS Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program – FY 2025 grant include:

- A public water system that serves a community with a population of 10,000 or more

Applicants must address only one of the two National Priority Areas in their grant applications:

- 1) Midsize Community Infrastructure Investments for Drinking Water System Resilience
  - a. Public water systems that serve communities with a population between 10,000 and 100,000 individuals
- 2) Large Community Infrastructure Investments for Drinking Water System Resilience
  - a. Public water systems that serve communities with a population of 100,000 individuals or more

There is no limit to the number of applications that each entity may submit for the MLDWS Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program – FY 2025 grant. LADWP intends to submit two project applications under National Priority Area 2: Large Community Infrastructure Investments for Drinking Water Resilience.

There is an estimated \$9.5 million in funds available for distribution under the MLDWS Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program – FY 2025 grant. It is anticipated that six grants will be awarded,

four under National Priority Area 1 in approximate amounts ranging from \$1 million to \$1.187 million each, and two under National Priority Area 2 in approximate amounts ranging from \$2 million to \$2.375 million each.

#### Cost Sharing Requirements

The MLDWS Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program – FY 2025 grant has a cost-sharing requirement of 10 percent of the total project costs.

Cost share may be made through federal or non-federal cash or in-kind contributions from project recipients, sub recipients, or other third-party financing where the funds are not included as contributions for any other Federal award and are necessary and reasonable for achieving the objectives of the Federal award. Volunteer services furnished by third-party professional and technical personnel, consultants, or other labor may be counted as cost sharing if the service is necessary for the program. Any restrictions that apply to the use of award funds also apply to the use of matching contributions.

The total project cost is \$10.016 million for the Earthquake Resistant Pipeline Mainline Installation Program and \$2.375 million for the LEAP. LADWP will match the 10 percent cost-sharing requirement for each of the two projects through the Water Revenue Fund and staff labor time.

#### Required Approval to Accept Award

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6(a), all departments are required to seek Mayor and Council approval before accepting and receiving a grant award. It is therefore recommended that LADWP report back to the Mayor and Council upon award notification to request authority to accept and receive the grant awards and confirm that there is no additional General Fund impact.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Approval of the recommendations in this report will not result in a General Fund impact. There is a 10 percent matching funds requirement for the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program – FY 2025 grant. However, upon notification of a grant award, a reassessment on the General Fund impact should be completed as it relates to either lower than requested grant award amounts, verification of local match requirements, or front-funding for grants on a reimbursement basis.

### **FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT**

The recommendations in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies.

Attachment 1: Proposed Grant Projects  
Attachment 2: Project Prioritization Forms

*MWS/PJH/JVW:JAS:10260068*

cc: CAO Grant Coordination  
LADWP

## ATTACHMENT 1 – PROPOSED GRANT PROJECTS

Grant Administrator: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water  
Name of Grant: Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program – FY 2025  
NOFO Release Date: August 5, 2025  
Award Date: Approximately May 2026  
Performance Period: Up to 4 years

Lead Department	Project Name	Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Grant Project Description	Total Project Budget (in millions)	Total Grant Request (in millions)	Local Match (in millions)	Planned Completion Date
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)	Earthquake Resistant Pipeline Mainline Installation Program	The project will retrofit and upgrade existing water distribution mains in hazard-prone corridors with earthquake and subsidence-resistant materials ensuring continuity of potable water supply.	\$10.02	\$2.38	\$1.00	4 years (05/2030)
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)	Landscape Efficiency Assistance Program (LEAP)	The program provides free landscape direct install services to eligible customers living within disadvantaged communities within the City of Los Angeles to reduce water consumption.	\$2.38	\$2.38	\$0.23	4 years (05/2030)

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT - IIJA AND CALIFORNIA COMEBACK PLAN  
INTERNAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FORM**

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**City Department:**  
Water and Power

**Contact Name:**  
Terrence McCarthy

**Email:**  
terrence.mccarthy@ladwp.com

**Phone Number:**  
(213)367-4270

**Awarding Agency:** ☒ **Federal** ☐ **State**  
Environmental Protection Agency

**Program Name:**  
Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience  
and Sustainability Program

**Project Name:**  
Earthquake Resistant Pipeline Mainline Installation Program

**Has the Department previously received funding from this Agency?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Project Location:**  
City of Los Angeles

**Has a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) been released?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Project Description and Scope:**

To retrofit and upgrade existing water distribution mains in hazard-prone corridors with earthquake and subsidence-resistant materials and joint systems, ensuring continuity of potable water supply and reducing risk of catastrophic failure during seismic, subsidence, and flood events.

**FUNDING CATEGORY**

- ☐ Broadband
- ☐ Energy and Power
- ☐ Environmental Remediation
- ☐ Resiliency
- ☒ Water Infrastructure
- ☐ Western Water Infrastructure

**Transportation**

- ☐ Airports
- ☐ Clean Buses and Ferries
- ☐ Electric Vehicle Chargers
- ☐ Ports and Waterways

**Transportation (continued)**

- ☐ Reconnecting Communities
- ☐ Roads and Bridges
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Public Transit

**Purpose and Need:**

The proposed retrofit will focus on strengthening the reliability and seismic performance of the water distribution system through targeted pipeline replacement and rehabilitation.

**Project Meets Grant Requirements:**

The Earthquake Resistant Pipeline Mainline Installation Program increases drinking water system resilience of public water systems to natural hazards, specifically earthquakes.

**Project will be Completed and Funding Expended by the Grant Deadline:**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Grant Expenditure Deadline:** 12/31/30

FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (COST AND SCHEDULE)				
Project Phase:	Estimated Start Date (MM/YYYY)	Estimated Completion Date (MM/YYYY)	Cost (\$ in thousands)	Funding Available
Construction			0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Environmental			0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Designs, Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E)			0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Right of Way (Capital/Support)			0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Construction (Capital/Support)	01/2026	12/2030	184,506	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Opening (if applicable):			Date: Total Cost: \$184,506	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
FOR NON-INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (COST AND SCHEDULE)				
Task/Task Description:	Estimated Start Date (MM/YYYY)	Estimated Completion Date (MM/YYYY)	Cost (\$ in thousands)	Funding Available
				<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
				<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
				<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Opening (if applicable):			Date: Total Cost: \$0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT POLICY CRITERIA				

<input type="checkbox"/> Risk to Health and Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance with Legal, Regulatory, or Other Policy Mandated Requirements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resilience and Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Impact to City Operations, Asset Condition, Annual Recurring Costs and Asset Longevity <input type="checkbox"/> Equitable Community Investment and Economic Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Category and/or Bunding Opportunity	Collectively, these measures will enhance the system's ability to withstand seismic ground movement, prevent catastrophic failures, and maintain uninterrupted delivery of essential water services during and after hazard events.
<b>ADDITIONAL METRICS</b>	
<b>Job Creation:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> City Forces <input type="radio"/> Contractor <input type="radio"/> Both <span style="float: right;"><b>Estimated number of jobs retained/created:</b> 0 FTE</span> Existing deteriorated mains will be removed or slip-lined to restore structural integrity and service life	
<b>Advancing Equity:</b> 5 Score The Earthquake Resistant Pipeline Mainline Installation Program increases drinking water system resilience of public water systems to natural hazards, specifically earthquakes.	
<b>Other Grant/Specific Equity Guidelines:</b> Does the grant provide additional Equity Requirements? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Does the project meet this/these guidelines? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
<b>Environmental Sustainability:</b> The Program will enhance the system's ability to withstand seismic ground movement, prevent catastrophic failures, and maintain uninterrupted delivery of essential water services during and after hazard events.	
<b>CITY RESOURCES REQUIREMENTS</b>	
What is the required local match, as a percentage of total project costs? 10 %    \$18,450,600 ( <i>dollar amount</i> ) Will the awarding agency allow the use of another grant or in kind services to be used as a match? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <b>Please provide details on the match funding (\$ or staff time) to be used:</b>	
<b>Coordination with Other City Departments:</b>	
<b>Maintenance Requirements:</b>	
<b>Other Funding Requirements and Resources:</b> Will the City have to front fund the cost of the project? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No . If Yes, please provide source(s) of funds: LADWP Water Revenue Funds Has the project been awarded other funds? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No . If Yes, please provide additional details:	
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</b>	

<b>Supplemental Materials:</b>
<b>Collaborative Opportunities:</b>



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT - IIJA AND CALIFORNIA COMEBACK PLAN  
INTERNAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FORM**

<b>City Department:</b> Water and Power	<b>Contact Name:</b> Terrence McCarthy	<b>Email:</b> terrence.mccarthy@ladwp.com	<b>Phone Number:</b> (213)367-4270
<b>Awarding Agency:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Federal</b> <input type="radio"/> <b>State</b> Environmental Protection Agency		<b>Program Name:</b> Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program	
<b>Project Name:</b> Landscape Efficiency Assistance Program (LEAP)		<b>Has the Department previously received funding from this Agency?</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
<b>Project Location:</b> Various locations - single-family residential properties within disadvantaged communities		<b>Has a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) been released?</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
<b>Project Description and Scope:</b> The Landscape Efficiency Assistance Program (LEAP) provides free landscape direct install services to eligible customers living within disadvantaged communities within the City of Los Angeles on a first come, first served basis. Eligible customers will have the option to either replace their existing turf with California Friendly landscaping or upgrade their existing sprinkler system with high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles. The program is anticipated to convert 700 to 1,000 private property resid			
<b>FUNDING CATEGORY</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Broadband <input type="checkbox"/> Energy and Power <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Remediation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resiliency <input type="checkbox"/> Water Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Western Water Infrastructure	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Airports <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Buses and Ferries <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Vehicle Chargers <input type="checkbox"/> Ports and Waterways	Transportation (continued) <input type="checkbox"/> Reconnecting Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Roads and Bridges <input type="checkbox"/> Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Public Transit	
<b>Purpose and Need:</b> Studies have shown that outdoor landscaping accounts for a significant portion of residential water use in the United States; potentially reaching up to 60% of total household use in drier climates. LADWP's current turf replacement program has proven to be successful in reducing water use, however, the high upfront costs to replace turf has proven to be a significant hurdle, especially for those living in disadvantaged communities. By providing free landscape direct install services through LEAP, customers will be able to reduce their water consumption without having to worry about the financial burden of doing the work themselves. LEAP is anticipated to result in 139 AFY of water savings. The reduction in water consumption will contribute to the City's water use efficiency goal, establish sustainable practices, and may help to alleviate additional financial burdens related to water use for customers living in underserved communities throughout Los Angeles.			

**Project Meets Grant Requirements:**

LEAP is a conservation program which enhances water use efficiency.

**Project will be Completed and Funding Expended by the Grant Deadline:**☒ Yes ☐ No**Grant Expenditure Deadline:****FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (COST AND SCHEDULE)**

<b>Project Phase:</b>	<b>Estimated Start Date (MM/YYYY)</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date (MM/YYYY)</b>	<b>Cost (\$ in thousands)</b>	<b>Funding Available</b>
Environmental			0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Designs, Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E)			0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Right of Way (Capital/Support)			0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Construction (Capital/Support)			0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Opening (if applicable):	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	\$0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

**FOR NON-INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (COST AND SCHEDULE)**

<b>Task/Task Description:</b>	<b>Estimated Start Date (MM/YYYY)</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date (MM/YYYY)</b>	<b>Cost (\$ in thousands)</b>	<b>Funding Available</b>
Project Administration	07/2023	12/2029	0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Planning/Design/Engineering/Environmental/Documentation	07/2023	08/2025	0	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Construction/Implementation	08/2025	12/2029	2,375	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Opening (if applicable): Opening	<b>Date:</b> 08/2025	<b>Total Cost:</b>	\$2,375	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

**CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT POLICY CRITERIA**

<input type="checkbox"/> Risk to Health and Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance with Legal, Regulatory, or Other Policy Mandated Requirements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resilience and Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Impact to City Operations, Asset Condition, Annual Recurring Costs and Asset Longevity <input type="checkbox"/> Equitable Community Investment and Economic Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Category and/or Bunding Opportunity	LEAP promotes water use efficiency and establishes sustainable practices through the installation of water-saving devices and drought-tolerant landscaping. The scope of work for LEAP projects includes turf replacement with drought-tolerant, California friendly landscaping, installation of a stormwater capture feature, conversion to drip irrigation, installation of high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles, and installation of water saving devices (weather-based irrigation controllers and smart home water use monitoring devices). The completed installations will also assist in the City's resiliency to the ongoing water shortage and drought.
<b>ADDITIONAL METRICS</b>	
<b>Job Creation:</b> <input type="radio"/> City Forces <input checked="" type="radio"/> Contractor <input type="radio"/> Both <span style="float: right;"><b>Estimated number of jobs retained/created:</b> 0 FTE</span>	
The construction work will be completed by contractors certified in water-efficient landscaping. Contractors have been procured through an Invitation for Bid.	
<b>Advancing Equity:</b> 3-14 Score  LEAP is specifically offered to customers living within disadvantaged communities within the City of Los Angeles. It provides free landscape transformations within these areas, resulting in the sustainable beautification of these areas along with effective water conservation.	
<b>Other Grant/Specific Equity Guidelines:</b> Does the grant provide additional Equity Requirements? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Does the project meet this/these guidelines? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
<b>Environmental Sustainability:</b> Provides water use efficiency upgrades to local landscapes. Upgrades include installation of drought-tolerant, California friendly landscape, installation of a stormwater capture feature, and efficient irrigation. A weather-based irrigation controller is available for installation, depending on existing conditions, and will automatically pause irrigation when it rains and be programmed to efficiently water based on watering schedules and times listed in LADWP's Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance. A smart home water use monitoring device is also available for installation and will assist customers in tracking their water use throughout the property as well as detect any leaks.	
<b>CITY RESOURCES REQUIREMENTS</b>	
What is the required local match, as a percentage of total project costs? 10 %    \$237,500 ( <i>dollar amount</i> ) Will the awarding agency allow the use of another grant or in kind services to be used as a match? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <b>Please provide details on the match funding (\$ or staff time) to be used:</b> Staff time will be used for the match funding.	
<b>Coordination with Other City Departments:</b> No other City Department will be involved in the delivery of this project.	

**Maintenance Requirements:**

The customer will be responsible for maintenance of their transformed yard once construction is complete.

**Other Funding Requirements and Resources:**

Will the City have to front fund the cost of the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No . If Yes, please provide source(s) of funds:

Has the project been awarded other funds? ☒ Yes ☐ No . If Yes, please provide additional details: LEAP was awarded \$14.625 million in grant funding through the Urban Community Drought Relief Grant provided by the California Department of Water Resources. The grant funding was awarded in June 2023

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION****Supplemental Materials:**

[2025\\_LEAP\\_handout.pdf](#)

[2025\\_SOCIAL\\_MEDIA\\_POST\\_LEAP\\_Instagram\\_BeforeAfter\\_Rev1.png](#)

[English LEAP Email.jpg](#)

[SPANISH LEAP email .jpg](#)

**Collaborative Opportunities:**