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Media Contact
Mallory Crecelius
msutterfield@cityofblythe.ca.gov

City of Blythe Awarded $4.6 Million for Hidden Beaches Water Quality Project

Blythe, CA — The City of Blythe received a $4.6 million grant from the California State Water Resources Control Board to fund critical improvements to the Hidden Beaches Water System. The project will strengthen drinking water quality for residents by addressing elevated manganese levels in the Hidden Beaches Water System.

“We appreciate the State Water Resources Control Board’s generous partnership and investment in this important issue,” said Mayor Joseph DeConinck. “These necessary improvements will improve water quality and help ensure residents continue to receive reliable drinking water service for years to come.”

The City developed a modernization project to improve water treatment, storage and supply systems. Following the identification of elevated manganese levels in an existing well during a 2023 state review, City leaders mobilized an action plan. By 2024, the City finalized an engineering solution and successfully applied for state financial assistance through the Office of Drinking Water to fast-track these vital public health improvements.

The project will install new treatment filters, a raw water storage tank, greensand filter, backwash settling tank and sludge pump to remove manganese and iron from the water supply. The project will also add a new booster pump station to filter backwash, construct a new drinking water well and replace the existing water storage tank.

“This funding reflects our commitment to protecting public health and maintaining reliable water service for our residents,” said Interim City Manager Mallory Crecelius. “The City remains dedicated to investing in critical infrastructure, and the Hidden Beaches project will deliver lasting improvements to the community. We will continue to keep residents informed as construction progresses.”

The City anticipates receiving State approval of the final plans and specifications by September . Following approval, the City will release a Notice inviting bids and begin the contractor selection process. Construction is expected to be completed by January 2028.