

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee

From: Amanda Grint, Assistant General Manager

Date: February 5, 2025

Re: Water Sustainability Fund Grant Application for Lower Platte River Weed Management

The District has been a party to an Interlocal Agreement with Lower Platte South NRD and Lower Platte North NRD to fund the Lower Platte River Phragmites Management Project since 2009. This agreement provides funding to survey, locate and spray areas of phragmites and other invasive vegetation in the Lower Platte floodplain.

This program has been effective and works in conjunction with the Lower Platte Weed Management Area Association (LPWMA) to reduce areas of phragmites in the Lower Platte. At the same time, the annual spraying has also helped control other noxious weeds and some invasive woody vegetation. This overgrowth of vegetation in river channels has adverse effects on habitat, river flows, and recreational use as well as causing obstructions for flood flows and ice break up.

The District maintains this fund while coordinating with the LPWMA to utilize state grant funds before the interlocal funds are expended. Last year, the state grant funds were unavailable, and all spraying was funded through the interlocal. The lack of state funds puts the agencies of the LPWMA behind in the amount of spraying that can be completed and the association believes that if the lack of state funding continues it would adversely impact the progress that has been made in the Lower Platte. The application is requesting a small grant in the amount of \$200,000 to help stretch the NRD dollars and complete more spraying.

Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute and submit a Water Sustainability Fund application on behalf of the Lower Platte Weed Management Association, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

