CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA BILL # AB23-0067

City of Algona
200 Washington Blvd.
Algona, WA 98001

ITEM INFORMATION

SUBJECT:

Washington Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) Inter-Local Agreement

Agenda Date: March 13th, 2023

Department/Committee/Individual	Created	Reviewed
Mayor		
City Administrator		X
City Attorney		X
City Clerk		
Finance Dept		
PW/Utilities		X
Planning Dept		
Community Services		
Police Dept		
Finance Committee		
Planning Commission		
Civil Service Committee		

Cost Impact:

Fund Source:

Timeline: 1st review – 3/13/23

Staff Contact: Russ Avery, Public Works Director

Attachments: Brochure; Inter-Local Agreement

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Washington Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) is a collection of agencies that agree to provide mutual aid and assistance from one another in emergent situations.

(See the attached brochure for more detail on the program)

COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

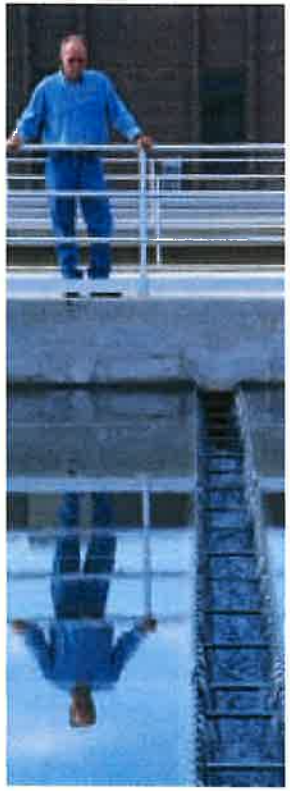
RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECORD OF COUNCIL ACTION

Meeting Date: *Action:* *Vote:*

WARN: Utilities Helping Utilities

What is WARN?
WARN is a Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network that allows water and wastewater systems to receive rapid mutual aid and assistance from other systems in an emergency. Utilities sign the WARN standard agreement which then allows them to share resources with any other system in Washington that has also signed the agreement.



How does a utility get assistance during an emergency?

- The WARN member who needs help identifies the resources needed to respond.
- The WARN member can either directly contact a fellow WARN member who has the necessary resources or use a state specific process of requesting aid.

Are member utilities require to respond and send resources?
There is no obligation to respond. It is up to the lending utility to determine if resources are available.

What role does the Agreement play?
During an emergency, the process and procedures to give and receive assistance are governed by articles in the WARN agreement. The agreement covers issues such as requesting assistance, giving assistance, reimbursement, workers' compensation, insurance, liability, and dispute resolution.

How is WARN different from an existing statewide mutual aid program managed by emergency management?

- WARN agreements do not require a local declaration of emergency.
- Statewide programs do not include private utilities; WARN agreements do.
- Statewide agreements are managed by the state emergency management agency; WARN is managed by utilities.

What are the benefits of WARN?

- There is no cost to participate and it's voluntary.
- Increases emergency preparedness and coordination.
- Provides a single agreement to access resources statewide.
- The agreement contains provisions to protect participating utilities.
- The agreement also provides for cost reimbursement.
- Both private and public utilities may participate.

Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for Washington State for Intrastate Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN)
As of: 04/13/09

This Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into by public water and wastewater utilities that have executed this Agreement.

ARTICLE I
PURPOSE

Recognizing that emergencies may require aid or assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, and supplies from outside the area of impact, the signatories hereby establish an Intrastate Network for Mutual Aid and Assistance (the "Network"). Through the Network, Members (as further defined in this Agreement) may coordinate response activities and share resources during emergencies.

ARTICLE II
DEFINITIONS

A. Authorized Official – An employee or officer of a Member agency that is authorized to:

1. Request assistance;
2. Offer assistance;
3. Decline to offer assistance;
4. Decline to accept offers of assistance, and
5. Withdraw assistance under this Agreement.

B. Emergency – A natural or human-caused event or circumstance causing, or imminently threatening to cause, loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering, significant financial loss, or damage to environment. For example, Emergencies may include fire, explosion, flood, severe weather, drought, earthquake, volcanic activity, spills or releases of oil or hazardous material, contamination, utility or transportation emergencies, disease, blight, infestation, civil disturbance, riot, intentional acts, sabotage and war that are, or could reasonably be beyond the capability of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of a Member to fully manage and mitigate by itself.

C. Member – Any public agency which provides supply, transmission or distribution of water; or collection, conveyance or treatment services of storm water or waste water that executes this Agreement (individually a "Member" and collectively the "Members"). The Members are further classified as follows:

1. Requesting Member – A Member who requests aid or assistance under the Network.
2. Responding Member – A Member that responds to a request for aid or assistance under the Network.

D. Period of Assistance – The period of time when a Responding Member

assists a Requesting Member in response to a Request for Assistance. The Period of Assistance commences when personnel, equipment, or supplies depart from Responding Member's facility and ends when all of the resources return to the Responding Member's facility (*i.e.*, portal to portal).

E. National Incident Management System (NIMS): The national, standardized system for incident management and response that sets uniform processes and procedures for emergency response operations.

F. Associate – Any non-utility participant approved by the Statewide Committee that provides a support role for the Network (such as the State Department of Health). An Associate does not execute this Agreement.

ARTICLE III
ADMINISTRATION

The Network is administered through Regional Committees and a Statewide Committee.

A. Regional Committees. The State is divided into regions that are geographically the same as the existing Department of Health Office of Drinking Water regions of the state, with the exception that the eastern region is divided to create a central region. Each region has a Regional Committee. Each Member within a region may appoint one person to be a member of its Regional Committee. Only those Regional Committee members appointed by Members are entitled to vote on matters before the Regional Committee. An Associate may be a non-voting member of a Regional Committee. Each Regional Committee shall elect a Chair by majority vote of the voting members of that Regional Committee and shall meet annually to review the operations and procedures of the Network.

B. Statewide Committee. The Chairs of the Regional Committees are the voting members of the Statewide Committee. An Associate may be a non-voting member of the Statewide Committee. Further, the Statewide Committee also may include as non-voting members representatives from the Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Emergency Management Division, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Evergreen Rural Water of Washington, Washington State Public Health Laboratory, EPA Region 10, Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts, and the Washington PUD Association. Under the leadership of a Statewide Committee Chair elected by majority vote of the voting members of the Statewide Committee, the Statewide Committee shall plan and coordinate emergency planning and response activities for the Network.

C. Members' administrative activities shall be voluntary and members shall not be required to finance the administration of the Network, nor shall the Network hold real or personal property.

ARTICLE IV
PROCEDURES

In coordination with the Regional Committees, and emergency management and public health systems of the State, the Statewide Committee shall develop and adopt operational and planning procedures for the Network that are consistent with this Agreement. The Statewide Committee shall review these procedures at least annually and shall update them as needed.

ARTICLE V
REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

A. Member Information: Promptly after executing this Agreement, the signatory Member shall deliver the following to the Statewide Committee: (1) a certified copy of the action of Member's governing body that authorized the signing of this Agreement and (2) an original signed Agreement. Each Member shall identify an Authorized Official and one alternate Authorized Official. Each Member shall provide current 24-hour contact information for its Authorized Officials to the Statewide Committee, which shall maintain a current list of all Members and the contact information for their Authorized Officials. The Statewide Committee shall provide to all Members an updated version of this list annually and whenever there is an addition or withdrawal of a Member and whenever there is a change of Authorized Officials' contact information.

B. Request for Assistance. In the event of an Emergency, a Member's Authorized Official may request mutual aid and assistance from Members ("Request for Assistance"). Requests for Assistance may be made orally or in writing, provided that when a Request for Assistance is made orally, the Requesting Member shall, as soon as practicable, identify and transmit in writing the personnel, equipment and supplies requested. Requesting Members shall direct Requests for Assistance to Authorized Officials. The Statewide Committee shall provide specific protocols for Requests for Assistance as part of the procedures created pursuant to Article IV of this Agreement.

C. Response to a Request for Assistance – Members are not obligated to respond to a Request for Assistance. After a Member receives a Request for Assistance, the receiving Member's Authorized Official shall evaluate whether to respond to the Request for Assistance, whether resources are available to respond, or if other circumstances would hinder response. Following the evaluation, the Authorized Official shall inform, as soon as possible, the Requesting Member whether the Member will respond to the Request for Assistance. If the Member is willing and able to provide assistance, the Member shall inform the Requesting Member of the type of available resources and the approximate arrival time of such assistance.

D. Discretion of Responding Member's Authorized Official – No Member has any duty to respond to a Request for Assistance. When a Member receives a Request for Assistance, the Authorized Official shall have sole and absolute discretion

as to whether or not to respond to the Request for Assistance, and if responding in the affirmative, to determine the availability of resources to be made available to the Requesting Member. The response of a Member's Authorized Official regarding the availability of resources to a Requesting Member shall be final.

E. No Liability for Failure to Respond – No Member will be liable to any other Member for deciding not to respond to a Request for Assistance or otherwise failing to respond to a Request for Assistance. All Members hereby waive all claims against all other Members arising from or relating to any Member's decision to not respond to a Request for Assistance or to any Member's failure to respond to a Request for Assistance.

ARTICLE VI
RESPONDING MEMBER PERSONNEL

A. National Incident Management System-When providing assistance under this Agreement, the Requesting Member and Responding Member are encouraged (but are not obligated) to be organized and function under NIMS.

B. Coordination and Records – Employees of the Responding Member will remain under the direction and control of the Responding Member to the fullest extent possible. The Responding Member is an independent contractor at all times. The Requesting Member's Authorized Official shall coordinate response activities with the designated supervisor(s) of the Responding Member(s). The Responding Member's designated supervisor(s) shall keep accurate records of work performed by personnel during the Period of Assistance and for the equipment and supplies provided during work.

C. Food and Shelter – Whenever practical, Responding Member personnel must be self sufficient for up to seventy-two (72) hours. Whenever practical, the Requesting Member shall supply adequate food and shelter for Responding Member personnel. If the Requesting Member is unable to provide food and shelter for Responding Member personnel, the Responding Member's designated supervisor is authorized to secure the food and shelter necessary to meet the needs of its personnel.

D. Communication – The Requesting Member shall provide Responding Member personnel with communications equipment as available, radio frequency information to program existing radios if appropriate, or telephone contact numbers, in order to facilitate communications with local responders and utility personnel. Each Requesting Member shall provide contact information for an individual with whom Responding Member's personnel may coordinate while en-route for access, staging instructions and other logistical requirements.

E. Status - Unless otherwise provided by law, the Responding Member's officers and employees shall have the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as if they were performing their duties in the jurisdiction in which they are

normally employed.

F. Licenses and Permits – To the extent permitted by law, Responding Member personnel that hold licenses, certificates, or permits evidencing professional, mechanical, or other skills shall be allowed to carry out activities and tasks relevant and related to their respective credentials during a Period of Assistance.

ARTICLE VII
RIGHT TO WITHDRAW RESOURCES

A. Right to Withdraw - A Responding Member may withdraw some or all of its resources at any time for any reason, as determined in the Responding Member's sole and absolute discretion. The Responding Member shall communicate written or oral notice of intention to withdraw all or some of a Responding Member's resources to the Requesting Member's Authorized Official as soon as practicable under the circumstances. To the greatest extent possible, but without limiting in any way a Responding Member's sole and absolute discretion, a Responding Member's determination to withdraw some or all of its resources provided to a Requesting Member should consider the status of the incident and incident stability, to minimize any adverse impacts from the withdrawal of resources by a Responding Member.

B. No Liability for Withdrawal - No Member will be liable to any other Member for first responding to a Request for Assistance by providing resources (such as personnel, materials, and equipment) and later withdrawing or refusing to continue to provide some or all of those resources. All Members hereby waive all claims against all Members arising from or relating to such a withdrawal or refusal.

ARTICLE VIII
COST- REIMBURSEMENT

The Requesting Member shall reimburse the Responding Member for all costs incurred by the Responding Member during a Period of Assistance, unless otherwise agreed in writing by both Members.

A. Personnel – The Requesting Member shall reimburse the Responding Member for personnel costs incurred for work performed during a Period of Assistance. Responding Member personnel costs will be calculated according to the terms provided in their employment contracts, hourly rate schedules or other conditions of employment. The Responding Member's designated supervisor(s) shall keep accurate records of work performed by personnel during a Period of Assistance. The Requesting Member shall include in its reimbursement of the Responding Member all personnel costs, including salaries or hourly wages, costs for fringe benefits, and indirect costs.

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the Requesting Member shall reimburse the Responding Member for all reasonable and necessary costs associated with providing food and shelter for the Responding Member's personnel, if the food and shelter are

not provided by the Requesting Member. The Requesting Member is not required to reimburse the Responding Member for food and shelter costs in excess of State per diem rates unless the Responding Member demonstrates in writing that the excess costs were reasonable and necessary under the circumstances.

B. Equipment – The Requesting Member shall reimburse the Responding Member for the use of equipment during a Period of Assistance, including, but not limited to, reasonable rental rates, all fuel, lubrication, maintenance, transportation, and loading/unloading of loaned equipment. The Requesting Member shall return all equipment to the Responding Member in good working order as soon as is practicable and reasonable under the circumstances. If equipment cannot be returned in good working order, then Requesting Member shall either provide in-kind replacement equipment to Responding Member at no cost to Responding Member or pay to Responding Member the actual replacement cost of the equipment. Reimbursement rates for equipment use will be no less than the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Schedule of Equipment Rates. If a Responding Member uses rates different from those in the FEMA Schedule of Equipment Rates, the Responding Member shall provide such rates orally or in writing to the Requesting Member prior to supplying the equipment. If reimbursement rates are to be different than those in the FEMA Schedule of Equipment rates, Responding Member and Requesting Member shall agree in writing on which rates will be used prior to dispatch of the equipment to the Requesting Member. Requesting Member shall reimburse for equipment not referenced on the FEMA Schedule of Equipment Rates based on actual recovery of costs. If a Responding Member is required to lease equipment while its equipment is being repaired because of damage due to use during a Period of Assistance, Requesting Member shall reimburse Responding Member for such rental costs.

C. Materials and Supplies – The Requesting Member shall reimburse the Responding Member in kind or at actual replacement cost, plus handling charges, for use of expendable or non-returnable supplies by the Responding Member during a Period of Assistance. The Responding Member shall not charge direct fees or rental charges to the Requesting Member for other supplies and reusable items that are returned to the Responding Member in a clean, damage-free condition. Reusable supplies that are returned to the Responding Member with damage will be treated as expendable supplies for purposes of cost reimbursement.

D. Payment Period – In order to be reimbursed, the Responding Member shall provide an itemized bill to the Requesting Member no later than ninety (90) days following the end of the Period of Assistance for all expenses incurred by the Responding Member while providing assistance to a Requesting Member under this Agreement. The Responding Member may request additional time to submit the itemized bill, and Requesting Member shall not unreasonably withhold consent to such a request. The Requesting Member shall pay the itemized bill in full on or before the forty-fifth (45th) day following the billing date. The Requesting Member may request additional time to pay the itemized bill, and Responding Member shall not unreasonably withhold consent to such a request, but in no event will payment in full occur later than one year after the date a final itemized bill is submitted to the

Requesting Member. If a Responding Member disputes a portion of an itemized bill, the Requesting Member shall promptly pay those portions of the bill not under dispute, pending the resolution of the payment of the disputed portion of the bill.

E. Records - Where a Responding Member provides assistance to a Requesting Member under this Agreement, both Members shall provide the other Member access to the books, documents, notes, reports, papers and other records relevant to this Agreement for the purposes of reviewing the accuracy of a cost bill or making or undergoing a financial, maintenance or regulatory audit. Both Members shall maintain these records for at least three (3) years or longer where required by law.

ARTICLE IX
DISPUTES
NEGOTIATION

Members shall first attempt to resolve any controversy, claim or other dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement by direct negotiation.

MEDIATION

To the extent not resolved by direct negotiation, Members shall mediate any controversy, claim or other dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement. Mediation is a condition precedent to arbitration. Unless the disputing Members agree otherwise, the mediation will be administered by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) under its Construction Industry Mediation Procedures. The disputing Members shall pay in equal shares the mediator's fee and any filing fees. Unless otherwise agreed by the disputing Members, the disputing Members shall (1) hold the mediation no later than thirty (30) days after a disputing Member delivers a request for mediation to the other disputing Members and (2) hold the mediation at the location of the Requesting Member. Agreements reached in mediation will be enforceable as settlement agreements.

ARBITRATION

To the extent not resolved by mediation, Members shall arbitrate all controversies, claims and other disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement. Unless the disputing Members agree otherwise, the arbitration will be administered by the AAA in accordance with its Construction Industry Arbitration Rules in effect on the date a disputing Member makes a demand for arbitration. A disputing Member may make a demand for arbitration before negotiation or mediation if it appears that a claim might be barred by a statute of limitations if the demand were made after the negotiation or mediation. However, in such a case the arbitration will be stayed until the conclusion of negotiation and mediation. The decision and award rendered by the arbitrator(s) shall be final, and judgment may be entered upon it in accordance with applicable law in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

ARTICLE X
DUTY TO INDEMNIFY

To the extent of its fault, a Member shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless all other Members, their elected officials, Authorized Officials, officers, employees and agents from any and all costs, claims, judgments, losses, awards of damage, injury, death and liability of every kind, nature and description, including the reasonable cost of defense and attorneys' fees, directly or indirectly arising from or relating to this Agreement (collectively, "Indemnified Claims"). This indemnity obligation extends to all Indemnified Claims against a Member by an employee or former employee of another Member, and for this purpose, by mutual negotiation, each Member hereby expressly waives, with respect to each other Member only, all immunity and limitation under any applicable industrial insurance act, including Title 51 of the Revised Code of Washington, other worker compensation acts, disability benefit acts or other employee benefit act of any jurisdiction which would otherwise be applicable in the case of Indemnified Claims.

ARTICLE XI
WORKER'S COMPENSATION AND SITE CONDITIONS

The Responding Member is responsible for providing worker's compensation benefits and administering worker's compensation for its employees. The Requesting Member is responsible for providing worker's compensation benefits and administering worker's compensation for its employees.

Each Member shall promptly identify to the other Members concerns about site safety, environmental concerns, and other working conditions. The Safety Officer appointed within the Incident Command System during the Period of Assistance shall address specific safety conditions and mitigations.

ARTICLE XII
NOTICE

Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, all notices must be in writing. Notice to a Member must be delivered to the Member's Authorized Official.

ARTICLE XIII
EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement shall be effective with respect to each Member when that Member's authorized representative executes the Agreement. The Statewide Committee shall maintain a master list of all Members.

ARTICLE XIV
WITHDRAWAL

A Member may withdraw from this Agreement at any time by providing to the Statewide Committee Chair written notice of withdrawal signed by the withdrawing Member's Authorized Official or other person authorized by the withdrawing Member's governing body. Any withdrawal will be effective upon receipt by the Statewide Committee Chair of the notice of intent to withdraw. If there is no Statewide Committee Chair, the withdrawing Member shall provide written notice to each Member in its region, and the withdrawal will be effective upon delivery of those notices. Once withdrawal from this Agreement is effective, the withdrawing Member will have no further obligations under this Agreement, except that withdrawal from this Agreement will not affect any indemnification or reimbursement obligation under this Agreement that arises prior to the effective date of the withdrawal.

ARTICLE XV
TERMINATION

This Agreement shall terminate in its entirety when there are less than two Members. Termination of this Agreement will not affect any indemnification or reimbursement obligation under this Agreement arising prior to the termination. The Statewide Committee Chair shall provide written notice of termination to all remaining Members of the Agreement.

ARTICLE XVI
AMENDMENT

This Agreement may be amended if, after written notice of a proposed amendment to all Members, the proposed amendment is approved by a majority of Members in each region. The Statewide Committee Chair shall provide written notice to all Members of approved amendments. Approved amendments will take effect sixty (60) days after the date the notice is sent to the Members.

ARTICLE XVII
SEVERABILITY

The parties agree that if any term or provision of this Agreement is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and provisions shall not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced as if the Agreement did not contain the particular term or provision held to be invalid.

ARTICLE XVIII
PROHIBITION ON THIRD PARTIES AND ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS/DUTIES

Notwithstanding rights of subrogation asserted by a Member's insurance provider, this Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Members and no other person or entity shall have any rights under this Agreement as a third party beneficiary nor shall any Member owe duty to a third party not a signatory of this Agreement by virtue of this Agreement. Assignments of benefits and delegations of duties created by this

Agreement are prohibited and of no effect.

ARTICLE XIX
GOVERNING LAW

This Agreement is governed by the law of the State of Washington, specifically RCW 39.34, Interlocal Cooperation Act.

ARTICLE XX
EXECUTION IN COUNTERPARTS

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and by different parties in separate counterparts. Each counterpart when so executed shall be deemed to be an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same Agreement.

The water and wastewater utility listed below executed this Agreement on this _____ day of _____ 202 .

Water/Wastewater Utility:_____

By:_____

Title:_____

_____
Please Print Name

By:_____

Title_____

_____
Please Print Name

Approved as to form

By:_____
Attorney for Member

_____
Please Print Name