



**Authorize funding for a  
Feasibility Study on an  
Interagency Water Transfer  
Partnership with the Mesa Water  
District**

October 1, 2024

# Water Supply Overview

- **Huntington Beach Current Water Supply**
  - 85% of our water comes from groundwater
  - 15% from imported water
  - Pumping groundwater costs \$688 per acre-foot
  - Imported water costs \$1,256 per acre-foot—almost double
  - City operates 9 wells, 6 of which are nearly 50 years old
- **Well Failure Risks**
  - If a well fails, we will need to buy imported water to replace the lost groundwater production.
  - This could cost an extra \$2.3 million per year for 3 years (about \$7 million total) until a new well is constructed



# Exploring Water Transfers

- **Benefits of Partnership**

- Allow Huntington Beach to use Mesa Water District's infrastructure to access groundwater
- Could save millions by avoiding expensive imported water
- Improve infrastructure efficiency
- Aid in response to emergencies such as drought conditions

- **Mesa Water Districts Supply Overview**

- In 2024, built two new high production wells, increasing their water supply by 50%
- Operates on 100% groundwater and has a policy to maintain 115% of water demand
- Has the potential to serve water to the City of Huntington Beach while still meeting their customers' needs



# Feasibility Study

- Interagency water transfer agreements are complex
- Study needed to explore legal, environmental, regulatory and financial aspects
- Estimated study cost: \$150,000
- Mesa Water agreed to cover 50% of the study
- Funding in the amount of \$75,000 is included in the approved Fiscal Year 2024/25 budget in Water Fund Account



# Recommended Action

- Authorize funds in the amount of \$75,000 for a Feasibility Study for an Interagency Water Transfer with the Mesa Water District



# Questions?

