









### **Grants and Loans Status Report**



IFC Board of Directors Meeting January 15, 2025

# **Grants and Loans Key Benefits**



Grants for planning studies, research and development, construction

- Leverage local funds with state and federal funding
- Partner to advance knowledge and test new technology
- Prepare planning studies to assess project feasibility

Low-interest loans for construction

- Effectively manage cash flow
- Spread costs over project life; reduce potential for sharp rate increases and financials impact on customers
- Benefit from grant equivalency properties of low-interest loans

### **Grant and Loan Award History**



- Since 2008, District has received 29 grants/loans totaling \$68.1M
  - \$15.7M in grant awards
  - \$52.4M in loan awards (mostly low-interest loans)
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) funding is no longer a primary external funding option
  - Projects must demonstrate multiple benefits (e.g., improve water quality, produce recycled water, generate renewable energy) to score high enough to qualify for funding award
  - Significant administrative requirements and costs
  - Current Interest Rate (October 2024) = 1.8% (half of general obligation bond rate)

## CWSRF Loan/Cal OES/FEMA & CalRecycle Grants 2024 Funded Projects



#### **Pump Station Facilities Repair**

\$1.6M CAL OES/FEMA Grant (Dec 2022) \$13.5M CWSRF Loan Agreement (<u>June 2024</u>)

#### **Marine Flare Collection**

\$100,000 CalRecycle Grant (Applied in 2024)

#### **December 31, 2022 Storm Event**

\$113,525 CAL OES/FEMA Grant (Dec 2023)



## 2025 Project Funding Strategies



- Cogeneration System Improvements Project (\$20M)
  addresses aging infrastructure to ensure effective and
  reliable production of renewable energy via biogas utilization
  - Utilize tax credits under federal 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to fund up to 40% of total construction cost (e.g., ~\$6.0M)
    - Complied with deadline to be in construction by December 31, 2024
  - Continue to monitor IRA funding for changes with incoming administration
    - Project is still economically viable without federal tax credits
- Secondary Process Improvements Phase 1 Project (\$110M) will address issues related to aging infrastructure, capacity needs, and nutrient management
  - Evaluated funding options—bonds are preferred over WIFIA loans unless WIFIA offers significant additional advantages
    - Bonds provide lower borrowing rates, require less administrative costs, and better align borrowing amount with actual project costs

## Project Funding Approaches and Available Resources



- Balance use of available cash to meet project timing needs, while maintaining financial flexibility
- Ensure appropriate and applicable use of Capital Facilities Capacity Charge (CFCCs) funds for growthrelated component of capital projects
- Advocate for priority legislative issues through wastewater industry groups (CASA, CSDA, WRWC)
- Continuously monitor grant and loan funding opportunities