City Council Agenda Item Request
Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

1. **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** 1/20/26

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Bridget Herring and Jaime Matthews / Recovery

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** 1/27/26

4. **Subject:** Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) Request for Federal Authorization and Funding

5. **Action Requested:** Adoption of a resolution authorizing staff to submit a request to the North Carolina Congressional Delegation requesting a federal authorization and funding for a City of Asheville comprehensive water system resiliency and capacity enhancement project designed to expand service reliability, strengthen system redundancy, and reduce vulnerabilities that could result in future potable water service disruptions and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to accept funds if allocated.

6. **Note if time sensitive, and why:** The North Carolina Congressional delegation deadline to submit requests is January 30, 2026.

7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** The City anticipates requesting a total of $87 million, If allocated, the City will be required to provide a 25% match of $21.75 million. This match is expected to be provided by the Water Resources Capital Improvement Plan although staff continues to explore other sources of funding to satisfy this requirement.

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE):** If allocated, work must be conducted by US Army Corps of Engineers

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** n/a

10. **Identify key issues:**

    - The City of Asheville's potable water system is critical public infrastructure supporting public health, safety, and continuity of operations for Asheville and surrounding communities, including regional medical facilities, major employers, and public safety partners.
    - Recent storm events, including Tropical Storm Helene, exposed system-wide vulnerabilities that resulted in prolonged potable water service disruptions and demonstrated the risks posed by watershed instability, sediment mobilization, and limited operational redundancy.
    - Post-storm conditions continue to threaten water quality and production capacity during rainfall events, increasing the likelihood of future service interruptions without targeted resilience investments.
    - Authorization under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is needed to advance priority water system resilience improvements that reduce these vulnerabilities and protect essential regional services.

- WRDA allows for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to engage with a non-federal partner in a water infrastructure project, but that project must have a viable non-Federal project Sponsor, a project authorization, and funding appropriation supporting it.