BACKGROUND

The City’s Public Works Utilities (Water, Wastewater, Storm Drain, Streets, and Solid Waste) are important public assets to the City. In recent years the utilities have realized an increase in illegal activities that are having safety and cost impacts on utility infrastructure, Public Works staff’s ability to provide services, and the general public. The two key illegal activities are:

- **Illegal Dumping and Camping in Public Right-of-Ways and Properties** – much of our utility infrastructure (storm drain outfalls, wastewater lift stations, storm drain box culverts, water pump stations, water and wastewater lines on bridges, etc.) is in areas where infrastructure, staff, and the public are impacted by the increase in illegal camping in the community. These illegal activities put the infrastructure at risk (theft, vandalism, etc.) and expose staff and the public to real safety concerns (bio-hazards, confrontation, and more).

- **Utility Vandalism and Theft** – utility staff daily experience vandalism and theft from trash carts, trash dumpsters, utility pump stations, lighting and signal conduits, and more. These illicit activities can put our staff at risk as potential encounters are likely during the course of maintenance operations, do result in loss of income to the City (recyclables, etc.) and have the potential to impact the City’s ability to provide utility service to its customers.

The Redding Police Department is often tasked with responding to these illegal activities but is not staffed to ensure timely and comprehensive responses. It is appropriate that the City’s Public Works Utilities fund enhanced public and private security and enforcement to better meet the operational and public safety concerns from the illegal dumping and camping and theft and vandalism as described above.

PURPOSE

Ensuring that Public Works continues to provide effective and cost-efficient service is important to the Community. To that end, it is important that the Public Works Department, in cooperation with the Redding Police Department, increases the safety of utility staff and protection of utility infrastructure with enhanced public and private security funded by the utilities.

POLICY

The City’s Director of Public Works and the Police Chief will develop, implement, and manage an effective Public Works Operations and Facility Enhanced Protection Plan. The Plan will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following elements:

- **Employee Operational Support** – enhanced law enforcement and security support for public works utility field operations.
- **Utility Vandalism and Theft Prevention** – enhanced security to prevent public works infrastructure vandalism and theft.
- **Budget** – development and management of a Budget related to the plan.
The key procedures and related responsibilities associated with this policy include:

- **Budget** – Prepare and manage a bi-annual Budget for the plan.
- **Reporting** – Report to Council during the bi-annual Budget process on the effectiveness of the plan.