



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** December 17, 2013

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Professional Services Agreement For Biosolids System Assessment

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a standard City Professional Services Agreement with Camp, Dresser, McKee, & Smith, Inc., in the amount of \$372,592 for engineering assessment services for the Biosolids Handling System, and authorize the Public Works Director to approve expenditures of up to \$37,259 for extra services that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

### DISCUSSION:

The El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (El Estero) uses both physical and biological processes to remove solids from the wastewater stream, which results in the generation of a residual commonly referred to as biosolids. Biosolids are comprised of nutrient-rich organic materials that can be recycled and used as fertilizer.

El Estero was constructed in the 1970's, and as a result, some biosolids process assets are coming to the end of their useful life. In addition, several biosolids-related capital improvement projects constructed in prior years have resulted in process changes which have impacted biosolids handling effectiveness. Therefore, the entire El Estero biosolids system has been identified for an engineering assessment, both to gauge its current state of equipment condition and process performance, and to make recommendations for biosolids process capital improvement projects needed in the coming decade.

The City submitted requests for proposals to qualified firms and received two proposals from engineering firms interested in performing this engineering assessment work. Staff interviewed both firms, and Camp, Dresser, McKee, & Smith, Inc., (CDM Smith) was recommended to perform this work.

CDM Smith will evaluate the existing biosolids handling process performance, accounting for process changes that have impacted biosolids handling over the past decades, and will make recommendations for process changes, accounting for desired

process performance. As a part of this assessment work, CDM Smith will coordinate with City staff to take the El Estero biosolids digesters out of service and will inspect the interiors of these large tanks. Recommendations from the assessment study will be used to identify and prioritize future capital improvement projects for future preliminary engineering design contract work.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

This project was anticipated, and there are adequate appropriated funds in the Wastewater Capital Fund for this professional engineering and scientific assessment work.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

Improvements to the biosolids system infrastructure may allow for future increase in biogas, thereby creating additional opportunities for beneficial reuse of biogas at El Estero. These improvements may also streamline operational activities, resulting in additional monetary savings over current practices.

At its meeting of December 9, 2013, the Board of Water Commissioners voted 5-0-0 to support staff's recommendation.

**PREPARED BY:** Christopher J. Toth, Wastewater System Manager/LA/mh

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rebecca Bjork, Acting Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office