



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 3, 2016

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Introduction Of Ordinance For Rayne Santa Barbara, Inc., Brine Discharge Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council introduce and subsequently adopt, by reading of title only, An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Approving a Ten-Year Agreement with Two Consecutive Five-Year Options with Rayne Santa Barbara, Inc., for Salt Brine Conveyance at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant, Effective June 9, 2016.

DISCUSSION:

The El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (El Estero) processes approximately seven million gallons of wastewater each day. Treated wastewater is discharged into the ocean under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Prior to discharge, and when the Desalination Plant is in operation, desalination brine water is commingled with El Estero's wastewater effluent at the brine mixing box. The brine mixing box is located on the southwestern corner of El Estero.

Rayne of Santa Barbara, Inc., (Rayne) is a private corporation that provides water conditioning (softening) services to customers in Santa Barbara County area. The water conditioning process results in a sodium chloride salt brine by-product that requires disposal. Currently, the brine is trucked to the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District's Waste Water Treatment Plant, located in Oceano, California.

Staff has been working with Rayne to coordinate installation of a new Salt Brine Conveyance System at El Estero. Rayne has obtained an NPDES permit, allowing Rayne to discharge its salt brine into the Pacific Ocean via the City's ocean outfall conveyance system. The brine would be discharged at the brine mixing box, where the ocean outfall conveyance system has the hydraulic capacity to accept brine from Rayne and potential future water conditioning companies.

Per the proposed ten-year Agreement, Rayne would construct the necessary improvements for the Salt Brine Conveyance System, which generally includes

installation of a four-inch diameter stainless steel discharge pipe with hose adaptor at the northern wall of the brine mixing box. Trucks would connect to and discharge brine into the brine mixing box via the hose adaptor. A new three-foot square concrete basin would be constructed beneath the hose adaptor to catch any spills during discharge. A small sampling line would be installed underground to facilitate sampling, which is required by Rayne per their NPDES permit.

Once constructed, ownership of the Salt Brine Conveyance System will be transferred to the City. The City will have full right to allow other entities to discharge brine into the Salt Brine Conveyance System. Potential future third party dischargers would be responsible for their own state, county and federal permits.

On March 3, 2016, the Project was issued a Coastal Development Permit by the City Planning Commission. The project was found to be exempt from further environment review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15303, which allows new construction of new, small facilities or structures.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Per the proposed Agreement, Rayne will construct the Salt Brine Conveyance System at its sole cost and expense, including all planning, design, construction and permitting fees (Project Cost). The City will offset payment of the salt brine fee (\$0.02 per gallon) for a period not to exceed nine years to reimburse Rayne for its investment. Once Rayne fully recoups the Project Cost, or at the end of the nine-year offset period, whichever comes first, Rayne shall pay \$0.02 per gallon of salt brine liquid delivered into the Salt Brine Conveyance System. If, for reasons unrelated to its construction or operation, the Salt Brine Conveyance System is decommissioned by the City before Rayne fully recoups the project costs, Rayne is entitled to a refund of any unused payment credits.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Rayne's salt-water brine does not require treatment prior to ocean discharge; however, it is unsuitable for discharge into the wastewater collection system. The increased salt in the brine water elevates the total dissolved solids concentration in treated wastewater effluent, which causes recycled water quality issues. By installing a Salt Brine Conveyance System at El Estero, Rayne and other water softening companies will have a local facility to dispose of their salt-water brine, thereby eliminating the need to truck it to San Luis Obispo County or discharge it into the wastewater collection system.

A copy of the agreement is available for public review in the City Clerk's Office and for City Council review in the Council reading file.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Arroyo, Wastewater System Manager/mh
SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director
APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office