



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 12, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Resolution For Repayment Of Low Interest Loan For Economic Stimulus Wastewater Projects

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Stating the City's Intent to Reimburse Any Funds Received from the State Water Resources Control Board for Two Renewable and Reduced Energy Projects at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (El Estero).

DISCUSSION:

On February 11, 2009, the United States Congress approved a revised nationwide Federal Stimulus Bill to help stimulate the weakened economy by investing in public infrastructure improvements. In preparation for this stimulus approval, staff identified projects in the Streets, Water, and Wastewater Divisions that could be expedited to construction. The Wastewater Division Economic Stimulus package has separate application requirements, such that they are reviewed by the State Water Resource Control Board, and the application is unique to wastewater projects. Also, the competition is high for limited resources at the State level.

On March 17, 2008, Council granted the City Administrator the authority to submit applications for two wastewater projects. They are as follows:

- Headworks Screening Replacement Project at El Estero, which involves increased removal of large solids that will improve overall plant treatment efficiencies.
- Biogas/Biomass Conversion Project at El Estero. This project is known as FOG (fats/food, oils, and grease), and uses brown grease and food scraps from restaurants for biofuel conversion to electricity.

These projects were selected based on environmental benefits and cost of construction.

The applications are now in the review process to receive funding. Additionally, for the application to be deemed complete, the City must pass a Resolution stating the City's intention to reimburse any funds received from the State Water Resources Control Board for these projects.

It is recommended that Council authorize the return of any funds received for these two projects from the State Water Resources Control Board. There will be additional follow up to Council as to the State Water Resources Control Board's acceptance or denial of stimulus fund grants for these projects.

PREPARED BY: John Schoof, Wastewater System Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office