



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** March 12, 2013

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

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

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Purchase Order For El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant Equipment Repair

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council approve an after-the-fact Emergency Purchase Order to Wick Boiler Service for emergency repairs made to the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant's Digester Heat Exchanger units, in an amount of \$49,950.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The biological treatment process utilized by El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (El Estero) to remove organic material from wastewater results in the generation of a residual commonly referred to as biosolids. Biosolids are primarily comprised of the bodies of a single celled organisms resulting from the aerobic and anaerobic digestion of the suspended and dissolved material in the wastewater. Biosolids are processed in El Estero's anaerobic digesters (large sealed concrete tanks) which are heated to a temperature range similar to the temperature of the human body, and bacteria present in these digesters consume almost half of the organic material of the biosolids delivered there in a period of two weeks.

In mid-January 2013, El Estero staff determined that the digester facility's heat exchanger units were failing and required immediate emergency repair. Despite spot repair work that was performed on these units in 2012, additional failures continued to occur. Continued operation of the digester heat exchanger units was deemed unsafe unless immediate rehabilitation work was undertaken. An emergency Purchase Order, No.77966, was issued to Wick Boiler Service to replace all the tubes within the digester heat exchanger units' fire boxes and lower sludge tubes, and to perform de-scaling and related cleaning work in the interior of both heat exchanger units.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The Wick Boiler Service emergency repair work was completed by late February 2013, at an overall cost of \$49,950. The Wastewater Fund capital budget includes appropriated funds for repair and improvements to existing facilities. This purchase order has been issued using these funds.

This matter was scheduled for review by the Board of Water Commissioners at the March 11, 2013, meeting.

**PREPARED BY:** Chris Toth, Wastewater System Manager/CJT/avb

**SUBMITTED BY:** Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

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