



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 29, 2010

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Contract For Assessment Of Secondary Wastewater Treatment Processes At The El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a contract with Brown and Caldwell in the amount of \$263,151 for engineering and scientific assessment services for the evaluation of secondary wastewater treatment processes at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (El Estero), and authorize the Public Works Director to approve expenditures of up to \$21,470 for extra services of Brown and Caldwell that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

DISCUSSION:

El Estero processes approximately 8.5 million gallons of wastewater each day. Originally constructed in 1952, a majority of the current infrastructure was constructed in 1978 to meet 1972 Clean Water Act requirements. While many capital improvement projects have been completed at El Estero in its past 58 years of operation, it still requires periodic unit process evaluations due to the nature of its operations. Staff has identified that El Estero's secondary treatment processes are in need of refurbishment and optimization.

On February 16, 2010, the City received seven Statements of Qualifications from engineering firms interested in performing this assessment work. On April 23, 2010, staff, along with a Water Commissioner, interviewed the three top-ranking firms, who provided proposals detailing the specific engineering and scientific analyses required to successfully perform this assessment work. From this competitive process, Brown & Caldwell was selected to negotiate the final contract and scope of work required for this work effort.

Brown and Caldwell will evaluate existing secondary treatment processes and will develop recommendations for proposed treatment process changes. Recommendations will be made for aeration system process improvements, activated sludge process improvements, secondary clarifier process improvements, and ancillary process activities. The consultant will identify a plan that describes proposed projects and project sequencing that may result from recommendations made in this assessment study. All work products will be summarized and referenced in a final Assessment Report.

At their meeting on June 14, 2010, the Board of Water Commissioners voted 5/0 to concur with staff's recommendation.

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:

Changes in the wastewater treatment process will result in less energy used at El Estero. Wastewater treatment process improvements will also improve water quality for both reclaimed water production and treated effluent discharge into the ocean.

PREPARED BY: Christopher Toth, Wastewater System Manager/CJT/es

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office