

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA****DRAFT****COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

AGENDA DATE: June 29, 2010

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Contract For Process Air and Activiated Sludge Assessment At 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 process air facilities and activated sludge unit process operations 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 made to El Estero in its past 58 years of operation, El Estero requires periodic unit process evaluation due to the nature of its operations. City 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 consultant firms interested in performing this assessment work. On April 23, 2010, City 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 & 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 consultant work products will be summarized and referenced in a final Assessment Report.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

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

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions resulting from less energy use for process air facilities operation at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant will result from this project. Improved water quality benefits for both reclaimed water production and treated effluent discharge into the Pacific Ocean also will result from this project's recommendations becoming fully implemented.

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

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office