

Agenda Report



MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 28, 2024

TO: City Council

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR LINDBERG
ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR GREEN

SUBJECT: APPROVE CONSULTANT AGREEMENT WITH CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC. FOR THE HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM TREATMENT PRELIMINARY DESIGN REPORT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$746,558; AND APPROVE A BUDGET APPROPRIATION FROM THE WATER ENTERPRISE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$498,558

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt a resolution awarding a contract to Carollo Engineers, Inc. to prepare the Hexavalent Chromium Treatment Preliminary Design Report, in an amount not to exceed \$746,558; authorizing the City Manager to execute said contract; and approving a budget appropriation in the amount of \$496,558 from the Water Enterprise Fund.

BACKGROUND:

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 micrograms per liter in 2014; the SWRCB invalidated this amount in 2017. In April 2024, the SWRCB again adopted the MCL; this new MCL is anticipated to go into effect in October of this year. The implementation period for water distribution systems the size of the City is two years. Therefore, the City will need to resume design and a treatment implementation plant for Hexavalent Chromium treatment in several of the City's drinking water wells.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Watsonville supplies and distributes potable water for drinking, fire protection and supplemental agricultural irrigation to its customers within both City limits and unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County.

On April 17, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a Hexavalent Chromium (Cr VI) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 micrograms per liter. The MCL is anticipated to be finalized by October 1, 2024. Previously, Carollo Engineers, Inc. (Carollo) and Corona Environmental Consulting, LLC (Corona) completed preliminary design and began final design for Cr VI treatment at most City wells when the Cr VI MCL was set in 2014. In 2017, the SWRCB invalidated the MCL for administrative reasons. In

2018, the City put the final design project on hold pending SWRCB's formal adoption of a new MCL.

With the SWRCB's adoption of a new MCL, the City should complete design and planning of the treatment project, in order to meet the anticipated two-year period for water agencies to comply with the new MCL. The City selected Carollo Engineers, Inc. from an On-Call Water and Wastewater Design Services Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued in July 2023. Carollo was selected as most qualified to perform these services based on their knowledge of Cr VI treatment and their previous experience with the City.

The Hexavalent Chromium Treatment Preliminary Design Report will reevaluate, confirm, and update the preliminary design criteria for treating the City's affected potable groundwater extraction wells for hexavalent chromium (CrVI). The City's wells proposed to be evaluated are:

- Wells 2 and 3 (Pressure Zone 1)
- Wells 7, 10, and 15 (Pressure Zone 1)
- Wells 14, 17, 18 (Pressure Zone 2)

Previously, the wells affected by the 2014 MCL were Wells 2, 3, 7, 14, 17, and 19. Various treatment and blending alternatives were evaluated during preliminary design and concurrent pilot studies, which identified treatment options with Reduction Coagulation Filtration (RCF) technology and blending.

This report will provide the City with an updated preliminary design construction cost estimate that will allow the City to seek funding. The estimated construction cost in 2017 was \$22 million. The preliminary design report will provide sufficient technical information in a format that can be utilized to pursue construction funding for the construction of Cr VI treatment facilities and related site improvements, blending facilities, and related pipeline infrastructure improvements such as new raw water supply pipelines, sewer upgrades, and/or distribution system pipeline upgrades.

Staff, therefore, recommends that a contract be awarded to Carollo Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$746,558 and that an appropriation be made in the amount of \$496,558 from the Water Enterprise Fund to cover the full cost of the contract.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This action is consistent with the following Strategic Plan goal:
2-Infrastructure & Environment

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This project is planned in the Water Enterprise Fund capital improvement budget. The total cost of the preliminary design report is \$746,558. There is currently \$250,000 budgeted for this project in account 913-7855-14346, requiring a budget appropriation from the Water Enterprise Fund of \$496,558 to cover the difference.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

No reasonable alternatives are known at this time.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

None.