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NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Don Ridenhour for Peterson, Robert - Director
Public Works
REPORT BY: Felix Riesenber, Principal Water Resources Engineer, 259-8620
SUBJECT: MST Recycled Water Project

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Public Works to provide an update on the status of the following Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay (MST) Recycled Water Project tasks:

1. Technical work - preliminary engineering and assessment district engineering;
2. California Environmental Quality Act analysis;
3. Public Outreach and;
4. Development of a Memorandum of Understanding with Napa Sanitation District.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Progress continues to be made on the Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay Recycled Water Project. There are four work "tracks" that are on-going and these include; technical engineering, environmental review, public outreach and development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Napa Sanitation District. Public Works staff will make a presentation on the current status of the project and anticipated future activities.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed action (project status presentation) is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

In 2003 the County completed an extensive Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay (MST) ground water study in partnership with the community and United States Geological Services (USGS). This study identified impacted groundwater areas within the region and suggested that the most feasible solution to the ground water overdraft situation occurring in the MST area would be to supplement the local supply with recycled wastewater from Napa Sanitation District (NSD).

In December of 2004, the Board of Supervisors approved a Water Resources Work Plan (Work Plan) that specifically included the MST Recycled Water Plan and the Angwin/Deer Park Water Supply Reliability Plan. Along with establishing a \$529,000 budget for the MST Recycled Water Plan, authorization was given to hire two positions within the Public Works Department to help accomplish this work. Specific MST Recycled Water Plan tasks described in the Work Plan included developing preliminary plans and cost estimates, developing a financing plan, creating an MST Assessment District, and preparing plans and specifications for construction. The additional staff members were not hired until April of 2006, at which point progress on the MST Recycled Water Plan began to accelerate. An important point to note is that the original Work Plan did not contemplate the need for a significant environmental documentation effort, which now appears likely.

The Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Kristen Lowell, Inc. (KLI) on September 12, 2006 to provide assessment district engineering services in the amount of \$63,565. These funds were allocated out of the \$529,000 originally approved for the MST Recycled Water Plan. The assessment district engineering services include taking the overall project costs and developing benefit assessment methodologies, and then allocating the costs to those properties within the assessment district boundary, along with assistance in forming the assessment district. However, KLI was limited in the amount of work they could perform until some of the preliminary engineering work was completed and overall costs were known. Napa Sanitation District (NSD), with input from County staff, completed the initial preliminary engineering effort with costs in May 2007.

County staff is currently moving forward on four "tracks" to complete the planning effort. These four "tracks" include:

1. Technical work including preliminary engineering and assessment district engineering.

In May 2007, Napa Sanitation District completed a study entitled "Recycled Water Expansion Hydraulic and Preliminary Engineering Analysis: Phase I Report - Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay Area." In this report, projected demands for the recycled water are estimated and pipeline layouts with sizing and cost information are provided for different participation scenarios.

Using the information contained in the NSD Report, Kristin Lowell, Inc. has been working on the assessment district engineering, and is currently focusing their efforts on benefit assessment methodologies (how to fairly spread out the costs to the landowners).

2. California Environmental Quality Act analysis of the project.

Based on numerous discussions with County Counsel and County Planning, staff are anticipating that an EIR will be needed for a project of this magnitude. This will likely be the critical path item for the overall project and staff is in the process of soliciting proposals to perform an environmental review for the project. This item will be brought back to the Board within the next few months to possibly award a consultant contract. As mentioned above, the original Work Plan did not contemplate the need for a significant environmental documentation effort and it may be necessary to request an additional allocation of Measure A funds to complete the work. Discussions with NSD are still ongoing to try to determine if the environmental documentation for the MST Recycled Water Plan could be completed as part of another regional effort NSD is participating in.

3. Public Outreach.

Staff have been performing initial public outreach efforts by meeting with interested parties such as the Napa Valley County Club (NVCC) and keeping in contact with various interested MST residents. Following this Board meeting, staff will begin setting up formal meetings with members of GULP (Groundwater Under Local Protection), NVCC, grape growers, etc, as well as larger public information meetings involving everyone. County staff is currently handling the public outreach process, but may consider contracting with a professional relations consulting firm used by the Napa Sanitation District with specific recycled water experience if necessary. This item will be brought back to the Board within the next few months to possibly award a consultant contract. The contract for this work would use Measure A funds already allocated and currently budgeted.

4. Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and NSD.

An MOU between the County and NSD is needed to define service levels and County/NSD responsibilities, such as who owns the facilities, who maintains the facilities, how much water will be made available to the area at what times of the year, etc.. There have been several discussions between County and NSD staff regarding the items to include within this MOU, and a draft MOU was prepared by the County in the Fall of 2006. At that time it was decided to hold off on finalizing the MOU until additional project details were worked out. The project is now far enough along that this item should be revisited and work towards completing the MOU should begin in earnest.

This Board presentation will cover the information above with more details on what has been accomplished to date and how staff would like to proceed. Staff will be requesting direction on how to proceed, but will not have any formal action items. Several formal action items will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for their approval before the end of this year.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi