

TUOLUMNE CITY SANITARY DISTRICT

TCSD
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REGULAR MEETING STAFF REPORT DECEMBER 1, 2021

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To: Board of Directors
From: Dave Andres, General Manager
Subject: Management Report
Date: November 19, 2021

Agenda Item: VI (b)

I am currently working with staff on a number of activities. These activities include the following:

- **Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) – pH Levels**

Carollo Engineers has been working with District staff on preparing a *BEST PRACTICABLE TREATMENT OR CONTROL EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR SALINITY AND NITROGEN REDUCTION WORKPLAN* (BPTC Plan). This is a two-year study that is going into the second year. In addition, staff has requested Carollo Engineers prepare a proposal to address our current issue with pH above 9. In water chemistry pH is a scale used to specify the acidity or basicity of an aqueous solution which a value of 7 represents neutrality and lower numbers indicate increasing acidity and higher numbers increasing alkalinity and on which each unit of change represents a tenfold change in acidity or alkalinity. On June 7, 2019 the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (RWQCB) implemented Order R5-2019-0058, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs, Permit) for the Baker Ranch (Ranch) and the Tuolumne City Sanitary District (TCSD) wastewater treatment plant, rescinding previous Orders for the Ranch and TCSD, and consolidating them into the new Permit with these new testing requirements.

Effective 1 June 2021 as required under our new permit, TCSD is prohibited from discharging effluent to the Land Application unless it was blended in the reservoir. Prior to this requirement irrigation water was directly applied to the Land Application Area (LAA). Since this was not metered in the past the district could not determine how much of the effluent water was not being blended in the reservoir. The district completed this project, but the unintended consequences is that all of our effluent is going directly to the ponds and our pH levels are exceeding our permit requirements. As a result, we will need to have a study conducted to address a permanent solution to this issue. I will advise your Board when we obtain a proposal for discussion.

- **Status of Community Services District (CSD) Application**

District staff, board representatives from the TCSD and TPRD, county staff and two county supervisors met via video conference on November 17, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the transfer of the Underground Utility District and the Lighting District to the new CSD. I have attached the agenda and background materials for your review. It was concluded that additional research would be needed to determine whether the county could agree to the transfer of these functions after the underground project is complete (estimated sometime in 2023). The county has indicated that only cities and counties can use PG&E's funds for Rule 20A undergrounding projects and that the light posts will need to come from the lighting district budget. We plan on getting back together on this issue in thirty-days. I will keep you informed on the outcome of these discussions.

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project – Anticipated Change Order**

As discussed at your last meeting, district staff and our consultants are working on a change order to address the need to include traffic-rated hatches on the new vault and that it be installed at driveway grade. Once the total costs are determined, I will advise your Board.