

TUOLUMNE CITY SANITARY DISTRICT

TCSD
18050 BOX FACTORY ROAD
TUOLUMNE, CA 95379

REGULAR MEETING STAFF REPORT FEBRUARY 2, 2022

PHONE: 209.928.3517
FAX: 209.928.4550
EMAIL: brendatsd@frontier.com

To: Board of Directors
From: Dave Andres, General Manager
Subject: Management Report
Date: January 26, 2022

Agenda Item: V(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 seasonal issue with pH at the reservoir intermittently exceeding 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. We have received a proposal from Carollo Engineers to prepare a report based on a two-year study. The estimated cost to conduct the study and prepare the report is \$80,300. I will be sending a copy of the proposal to staff representatives of the RWQCB to request their concurrence with the scope of the study. Once I receive confirmation from their staff, I will bring this contract back to your Board for approval.

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

District staff sent an email on January 10, 2022 requesting LAFCo staff establish a hearing before the LAFCo Board of Directors in February. I have not ,as of this date, received a response to this request. I subsequently, received a notice indicating that staff has canceled the February LAFCo meeting. I sent out a new email to LAFCo staff requesting a response to my original correspondence and requested that they establish a hearing date on this issue. I will advise you when I receive a response from LAFCo.

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

As discussed at your last meeting, district staff and our consultants are working on change orders to address the need to include traffic-rated hatches on the new vault and that it be installed at driveway grade. There appears to be two potential Change Orders – one for the vault and door assembly and one for electrical components to the pumps. We have an estimate of an additional \$36,544.98 for the vault and door. Once the costs of the electrical components are determined, I will advise your Board.

- **COVID – 19 Fiscal Relief for Special Districts**

The state legislature approved, and the governor signed legislation that authorized \$100,000,000 in state revenues for Special Districts that lost revenue due to COVID-19. District staff contacted the County Auditor’s office to determine how much funding was allocated to the district. The allocation for funding was based on comparing pre-COVID-19 revenues with actual revenues received during the pandemic with a cost-of-living escalator at 4% for each of two-years. The district lost a substantial amount of revenue due to the closure and reduced attendance at the casino. These fiscal relief funds have no restrictions on their use. I would recommend that we utilize these funds to supplement our *Property Tax Reserve*. Effective December 15, 2021 the state sent the appropriate allocation to the County, and they have deposited the funds into our account. The District received \$239,859 from this legislation. If there are no objections, I will have these funds placed in our “Property Tax Reserve Account.”