

TUOLUMNE CITY SANITARY DISTRICT

TCSD
18050 BOX FACTORY ROAD
TUOLUMNE, CA 95379

REGULAR MEETING STAFF REPORT MAY 5, 2021

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Agenda Item No. IV

To: Board of Directors

From: Dave Andres, General Manager

Subject: Effluent Blending Completion Report and Contract for Design Alternatives – Tail Water Control System

Date: April 26, 2021

Background: On June 7, 2019, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) implemented Order R5-2019-0058, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Baker Ranch Land Application Area (LAA) and the Tuolumne City Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant. This action rescinded the previous permit requirements for the Ranch and TCSD, and consolidated them into the new Permit. This Permit includes specific provisions which TCSD must implement in a timely manner in order to legally operate under the WDR, including the following:

1. Until June 1, 2021, TCSD must minimize diversion of unblended effluent to the Land Application Areas at the Ranch;
2. Effective June 1, 2021, TCSD is prohibited from discharging unblended effluent to the LAAs, and
3. By June 1, 2021, TCSD must submit a completion report demonstrating that all treated effluent from the WWTP is conveyed to the reservoir for blending with supplemental water prior to discharge to the LAAs.
4. In order to monitor the quality and volume of blended effluent discharged to the LAAs, two flow meters and a second effluent sampling station must be installed.

In addition, the RWQCB has established a requirement that a Tailwater/Runoff Control Workplan be established which was completed by Forsgren Associates and submitted to the RWQCB last year. The purpose of this requirement is to eliminate the potential for broken pipes to flood the LAA resulting in reclaimed water from directly discharging into Turnback Creek. Under our current WDR we are supposed to have a fully functioning Runoff Control System by June 1, 2021. The District will not be in compliance with this requirement and may be subject to a *Notice of Violation* (NOV) or a *Cease-and-Desist Order* (C&D) by the RWQCB. In-lieu, staff is proposing preparing a report that will recommend a preferred alternative. Once approved, the district could seek grant funding for construction.

Discussion: Attached for your consideration is the *Effluent Blending Completion Report*. As indicated in the report the District has satisfied RWQCB permit requirements by installing a new pipeline and pump from the reservoir to the Land Application Area previously served by the direct discharge of treated effluent along the outfall pipeline. In addition, two flow meters and

an additional sampling station were installed. Once the completion report is filed the District will be fully compliant with these new requirements under our WDR. If you have any questions regarding the Report, staff and our consultants will be happy to respond.

In respect to the Runoff Control System, additional analysis needs to be completed before a recommended direction can be made by staff. Traditionally, the RWQCB includes berms or ditches as a standard condition for runoff control for Land Application Areas near streams to avoid potential contamination. However, we are in a unique situation in that Turnback Creek is typically dry near the LAA during irrigation season, the LAA includes steep terrain, large, buried boulders and berms that would be subject to high maintenance due to disturbance by the cattle moving from various locations in the LAA. In addition, the site has numerous cultural resources that the District would like to avoid disturbing. It is hoped that an electronic control system in the event of pipe breakage can be designed and accepted by the RWQCB. This additional contract work is recommended to determine the best alternatives for meeting these requirements.

Fiscal Impact: Up to \$20,000 for the alternative analysis; actual construction costs of the Runoff Control System could exceed \$1 million depending on the project selected; the District will seek grant funding to cover these costs.

Attachment(s): *Effluent Blending Completion Report* and Tailwater/Runoff Control Workplan Task Order No: 21-01 for Forsgren Associates.

Recommendation: Approve and authorize the General Manager to submit the *Effluent Blending Completion Report* to the RWQCB and approve the attached agreement for services with Forsgren Associates.

Recommended Motion: I move to authorize the General Manager to submit the *Effluent Blending Completion Report* to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and approve and authorize the General Manager to enter into agreement with Forsgren Associates for the attached Tailwater/Runoff Control Workplan Task Order No: 21-01 at cost not to exceed \$20,000.

BOARD ACTION:

<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution No ____	Moved by: _____	Second by: _____
____ AYES	____ NOES	____ ABSTAINED
____ ABSENT	<input type="checkbox"/> No Action Taken	