

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SANITATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023, 9:00 AM**  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, ROOM 310  
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

A. REGULAR SESSION: Meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

PRESENT: Directors Nora Vargas, Chair; Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice-Chair; Joel Anderson; Nathan Fletcher; Jim Desmond; also, Ryan Sharp, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

B. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Director, if applicable.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953, Director Lawson-Remer requested to participate remotely due to an emergency circumstance, stating she was experiencing flu and cold symptoms and did not wish to risk spreading illness to others in attendance. Director Lawson-Remer stated no one over the age of 18 was in the room with her. ON MOTION of Director Vargas, seconded by Director Fletcher, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Sanitation District approved the request for Director Lawson-Remer to participate remotely due to an emergency circumstance.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Fletcher, Desmond

RECUSED: Lawson-Remer

C. Non-Agenda Public Communication: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Board on any subject matter within the Board's jurisdiction but not an item on today's agenda.

D. Approval of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of February 08, 2023.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Director Anderson, seconded by Director Fletcher, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Sanitation District approved the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of February 08, 2023.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

NOTICE: THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE ITEMS INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COUNTY STAFF DO NOT LIMIT ACTIONS THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT RELY UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BOARD LETTER AS DETERMINATIVE OF THE ACTION THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ON A PARTICULAR MATTER.

## **Agenda Items**

- | <b>Agenda #</b> | <b>Subject</b>  |
|-----------------|---|
| 1.              | ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS AND ADVERTISE AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PINE VALLEY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AEROBIC LAGOON REHABILITATION PROJECT AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION<br>[FUNDING SOURCE: ADDITIONAL FUNDS TIED TO RECOMMENDATION 2 IS AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE IN THE SANITATION DISTRICT FUND]<br>(4 VOTES) |
| 2.              | ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS AND ADVERTISE AND AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR LA PRESA SEWER IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION<br>[FUNDING SOURCE: ADDITIONAL FUNDS TIED TO RECOMMENDATION 2 IS AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE IN THE SANITATION DISTRICT FUND]<br>(4 VOTES)   |

1. **SUBJECT: ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS AND ADVERTISE AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PINE VALLEY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AEROBIC LAGOON REHABILITATION PROJECT AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 2)**

**OVERVIEW**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) manages a sewer system maintenance program for communities that are within the jurisdiction of the San Diego County Sanitation District (District). The District provides wastewater service to approximately 37,000 customers within the unincorporated area of San Diego county. The District owns and operates approximately 432 miles of pipeline, 8,200 maintenance holes, eight lift stations/pressurized mains, and three wastewater treatment plants. The collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater in an environmentally safe and efficient manner promotes healthy communities and increases residents' quality of life. The District performs routine cleaning of the system.

As part of the wastewater system, the District owns and operates the Pine Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant (Plant) located in the unincorporated community of Pine Valley. The Plant provides treatment of raw wastewater received from local residents, Pine Valley County Park, and the business district along Old Highway 80. Wastewater is treated in a 1.6-million-gallon aerobic lagoon, that contains two ponds. Aerobic lagoons are designed to hold and treat wastewater-and act similarly to a septic system. Ultimately, the treated wastewater flows into a series of earthen ponds which allow the treated wastewater to percolate into the ground as a form of groundwater recharge. Sewage flows into the aerobic lagoon via a 2,830-foot-long gravity sewer pipeline. The aerobic lagoon was originally constructed in the 1960s and continues to be maintained by the District and routinely inspected by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Pine Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant Aerobic Lagoon Rehabilitation Project (Project) will remove and dispose of settled organic matter and solids (sludge) from the lagoon. The successful completion of the Project will allow the Plant to operate optimally and not require dredging for the next 40 years, ensuring the health and safety of the residents of Pine Valley, protecting water quality, as well as avoiding the need for more extensive and costly repairs and upgrades in the future.

The engineering plans and specifications for the Project are complete, and the Project is ready to be advertised. Given the Project's close proximity to Pine Valley County Park, DPW and the Department of Park and Recreation are collaborating on notifying the surrounding public of the location, approximate dates, and activities involved and to be expected with the Project. There will be minimal impacts to Park users, as the work area for this project is limited through a maintenance road in the Park. DPW has also coordinated with Parks to ensure no events at the Park would be impacted. In addition, Project information will also be available through the DPW webpage where information can be translated into the eight threshold languages spoken in San Diego County. During construction, traffic control devices will be in place to limit impacts to the community and traveling public and always allow vehicle access. The Project duration is estimated to last two to four weeks depending on site and weather conditions.

This is a request to establish appropriations and approve the advertisement and subsequent award of a contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Project. The total contract cost for the Project is estimated at \$1,150,000 including a contract contingency of 13% for unforeseen conditions. The funding source is available fund balance in the Sanitation District Fund.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines pursuant to Section 15301 because it involves the operation and maintenance of an existing public facility involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.
2. Establish appropriations of \$200,000 in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Operational Plan in the San Diego County Sanitation District based on available fund balance in the Sanitation District Fund. **(4 VOTES)**
3. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to advertise and award a contract and to take any action authorized by Section 401 et seq., of the Administrative Code with respect to contracting for the Pine Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant Aerobic Lagoon Rehabilitation Project.
4. Designate the Director, Department of Public Works, as County Officer responsible for administering the contract, in accordance with Board Policy F-41, Public Works Contract Projects.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The San Diego County Sanitation District strives to preserve, enhance, and promote quality of life and environmental resources through the implementation of programs and projects that improve regional community health and environmental quality, while simultaneously complying with mandatory federal and state regulations governing sewer discharges. The infrastructure enhancements realized through the completion of this project will benefit the surrounding communities by reducing the risk of adverse impacts to water quality.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Maintaining the Pine Valley Treatment Plant has social, health and well-being, and environmental sustainability benefits. The Pine Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant Aerobic Lagoon Rehabilitation Project will ensure continued sewer service to the Pine Valley Community, which contributes to the County's sustainability goal of providing just and equitable access to County services. A properly maintained sewer system will protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region and protect water quality, which are also County sustainability goals.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Partial funds of \$950,000 are included in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Operational Plan in the San Diego County Sanitation District. If approved, the total estimated contract costs for the Pine Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant Aerobic Lagoon Rehabilitation Project are estimated to be \$1,150,000 in Fiscal Year 2022-23, including contingency. The total estimated costs for the life of this project are estimated to be \$1,210,000. \$60,000 of the total project costs were budgeted and used in the previous fiscal year for design, environmental review, and project related expenses, including inspections, permitting, and project administration. The funding source for additional funds of \$200,000 tied to recommendation 2 is available fund balance in the Sanitation District Fund. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

When approved by the Board of Directors for advertising and award, the San Diego County Sanitation District contracts are competitively and publicly bid and help stimulate the local economy by creating primarily contract-related employment opportunities. All workers employed on public works projects must be paid the prevailing wages determined by the California Department of Industrial Relations, according to the type of work and location of the project. The prevailing wage rates are usually based on rates specified in collective bargaining agreements. Whereas, the project cost will be greater than \$1,000,000, a skilled and trained workforce requirement will be included in the contract in compliance with the County’s Working Families Ordinance requirements for County contract projects over \$1,000,000.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Director Fletcher, seconded by Director Desmond, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Sanitation District took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

- 2. **SUBJECT: ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS AND ADVERTISE AND AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR LA PRESA SEWER IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 1)**

**OVERVIEW**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) manages a sewer system maintenance program for communities that are within the jurisdiction of the San Diego County Sanitation District (District). The District provides wastewater service to nearly 37,000 customers in the unincorporated areas of San Diego county. One of the sewer lines that the District owns and maintains is the Presa Trunk Sewer, which runs downstream through Grand Avenue and Jamacha Boulevard in the unincorporated community of Spring Valley. A trunk sewer is a large pipeline that receives wastewater flows from smaller pipelines and sewer lines. Eventually, the wastewater flows into the Spring Valley Outfall pipeline, which is ultimately treated at the City of San Diego’s Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant and then discharges several miles into the Pacific Ocean.

As part of routine maintenance in 2021, the La Presa Trunk Sewer was inspected using closed-circuit television cameras. The District identified the La Presa Trunk Sewer as a pipeline in need of rehabilitation due to age, material, and deterioration. La Presa Trunk Sewer and connected maintenance holes were constructed of clay pipeline in 1959. The typical expected design life for clay pipeline is 50 years, and this trunk sewer is over 60 years old. This particular trunk sewer has also been identified as a priority due to its aging condition and proximity to the Sweetwater Reservoir. The project is located in the underserved community of La Presa, Spring Valley.

The District will be rehabilitating La Presa Trunk Sewer pipelines utilizing cured-in-place pipe liner. This installation is a trenchless method, which is used to repair sewer lines without digging up the ground to access the sewer pipeline. Staff will use a corrosion-resistant lining to reduce the risk of sewer failure and extend the life of the existing pipe by approximately 50 years. The project also includes replacing five of the sewer maintenance holes in poor condition due to excessive exposure to corrosive gasses from wastewater. Nine maintenance holes that are still in good condition will be rehabilitated by applying an epoxy coating to extend the life of the structure by approximately 50 years. The project will provide structural support to an approximately 2,200-foot-long section of an aging and degraded sewer and maintain reliability and continued service for the District ratepayers while reducing the construction waste that would have been generated from replacing the existing sewer. Successful completion of this project will help prevent interruption of sewer service for important daily activities such as using bathrooms, doing laundry, and washing dishes.

The engineering plans and specifications for the project are complete, and the project is ready to be advertised for construction. Prior to the start of construction, temporary project identification signs will be placed notifying the public of the locations, approximate dates, and activities. In addition, project information will be posted in the primary languages spoken in the community (English and Spanish) and on social media for the public, and notifications, such as mailers and flyers, will be provided directly to residents and businesses along the project area. Project information will also be available through the DPW webpage where information can be translated into the eight threshold languages spoken in San Diego county. During construction, traffic control devices will be in place to limit impacts to the community and traveling public and always allow vehicle access.

This is a request to establish appropriations and approve the advertisement and subsequent award of a construction contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the project. The total construction cost for the project is estimated at \$1,750,000 including a construction contingency of 15% for unforeseen conditions during construction. The funding source is available fund balance in the Sanitation District Fund.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find in accordance with Section 15302 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines that the project is exempt from CEQA review because it involves replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

2. Establish appropriations of \$1,150,000 in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Operational Plan in the San Diego County Sanitation District based on available fund balance in the Sanitation District Fund. **(4 VOTES)**
3. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to advertise and award a construction contract for the La Presa 15-Inch Vitrified Clay Pipe Sewer Improvements and to take any action authorized by Section 401 et seq., of the Administrative Code with respect to contracting for the Construction Contract for the Project.
4. Designate the Director, Department of Public Works, as County Officer responsible for administering the construction contract, in accordance with Board Policy F-41, Public Works Construction Projects.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The San Diego County Sanitation District strives to preserve, enhance, and promote quality of life and environmental resources through the implementation of programs and projects that improve regional community health and environmental quality, while simultaneously complying with mandatory federal and State regulations governing sewer discharges. The infrastructure enhancements realized through the completion of this project will benefit the surrounding communities by reducing the risk of sewage spills and adverse impacts on water quality. The area within which the proposed La Presa Sewer Improvements Project (Project) is located has a California Healthy Places Index (HPI) percentile rank of 31.7% which indicates 68.3% of other California census tracts have healthier community conditions. The HPI combines 25 community characteristics, like access to health care, housing, education, and more, into a single indexed HPI score. The healthier a community, the higher the HPI score. In addition, the Cal EnviroScreen 4.0 score for this location is 55%, which represents the potential exposure to pollutants and adverse environmental conditions caused by pollution. The model uses 21 statewide indicators to characterize both Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics. A higher score represents a California community that is disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The La Presa Trunk Sewer project's trenchless approach to design, engineering, and construction methods are the least environmentally impactful and least disruptive to the surrounding community, while meeting the project objectives. The trenchless approach will reduce the construction waste that would have been generated from replacing the existing sewer as a whole. Reducing construction waste extends the life of landfills and supports sustainability goals by reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. The infrastructure enhancements realized through the completion of this project will also benefit the surrounding communities by reducing the risk of sewage spills and adverse impacts to water quality.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Partial funds of \$600,000 for this project are included in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Operational Plan in the San Diego County Sanitation District. If approved, the total estimated construction contract costs, including contingency, for the La Presa 15-Inch Sewer Improvements Project are estimated to be \$1,750,000 in Fiscal Year 2022-23. The total estimated costs for the life of this

project are estimated to be \$1,930,000. \$180,000 of the total was budgeted and used in previous fiscal years for design, environmental review, and project related expenses, including inspections, permitting, and project administration. The funding source for additional funds of \$1,150,000 tied to recommendation 2 is available fund balance in the Sanitation District Fund. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

When approved by the Board of Directors for advertising and award, San Diego County Sanitation District construction contracts are competitively and publicly bid and help stimulate the local economy by creating primarily construction-related employment opportunities. All workers employed on public works projects must be paid the prevailing wages determined by the California Department of Industrial Relations, according to the type of work and location of the project. The prevailing wage rates are usually based on rates specified in collective bargaining agreements. Whereas, the project cost will be greater than \$1,000,000, a skilled and trained workforce requirement will be included in the contract in compliance with the County's Working Families Ordinance requirements for County construction projects over \$1,000,000.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Director Fletcher, seconded by Director Desmond, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Sanitation District took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

There being no further business, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Sanitation District adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Directors  
of Sanitation District

Notes By: Perez

NOTE: This Statement of Proceedings sets forth all actions taken by the County of San Diego Board of Directors of the Sanitation District on the matters stated, but not necessarily the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.