

April 16, 2019

MEMO TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Agenda Item No. 6.3

Title: Consider Approval and Direction of Preliminary Design of Treatment Facilities for Pure Water Soquel

Attachment(s):

1. Letter to Martín Bernal dated April 9, 2019

Purpose and Background

At the December 18, 2018 meeting, the District Board approved the Pure Water Soquel Project and directed staff to “... Prioritize project development and siting for treatment facilities to be tertiary treatment at the Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility (SCWWTF) and the advanced water purification (AWP) treatment at the Chanticleer Site; while also coordinating with the City of Santa Cruz on the potential to site the full advanced water purification treatment at the SCWWTF provided no delay occurs to project schedule”.

At the February 5, 2019 meeting, the District Board directed staff to develop the basis of design reports (BODR) for two (2) facility configurations and the optional task of initiating up to 30% design for the Pure Water Soquel Project and directed staff to provide an update at the March 5th Board Meeting related to the coordination efforts with the City of Santa Cruz and the interest of the AWP at the SCWWTF.

At the March 5, 2019 meeting (Item 6.4), Staff provided an update on the Pure Water Soquel (PWS) project, which described staff’s coordination efforts with the City of Santa Cruz. This included the joint recommendation from the City of Santa Cruz and District staff to continue with the development activities of a split-facility design, whereby the tertiary components of the Pure Water Soquel Project at the SCWWTF rather than the full AWP Facility. This recommendation is based on the space constraints, construction impacts, the advanced level of purified water conveyed from Santa Cruz towards Capitola/Aptos, and the limitations with no expansion for the City or District within the 2-story full AWP facility (e.g. expansion) at the SCWWTF. Staff also provided a letter from the City Manager which expressed that the, “City continues to support the District’s intent of implementing the tertiary treatment for its Pure Water Soquel Project at the WWTF and looks forward to working on the Project Agreement in the coming months to finalize the terms and conditions and continue our coordinated efforts as the District proceeds into final design.”

Also, at the March 5 meeting, Staff further updated the Board on discussions with County Supervisor John Leopold and with the County’s Economic Redevelopment Department regarding the Chanticleer site and the District’s AWP Facility and the Regional Transportation Commission’s planned bike-pedestrian overcrossing. Staff explained that the County would like the District’s use of the Chanticleer site to be “value added” and as such, the District is exploring a strong educational component (tours, learning center, school education) and will be doing outreach in the area related to AWP facility and how the project will help address seawater intrusion in the Mid-County region, including Live Oak/Pleasure Point.

Board of Directors
April 16, 2019
Page 2 of 2


Based on the input from the City and the District Board’s desire to develop the project in a timely manner to address the seawater contamination challenge, staff from both the City and District have been working together on a BODR for a split facility configuration (tertiary at SCWWTF and AWPf at Chanticleer site); the development of a second BODR (full AWPf at SCWWTF) has not been initiated.

A letter to City Manager Martín Bernal has been prepared (**Attachment 1**), to acknowledge the collaborative efforts by the City to work with District on increasing beneficial reuse to address the mid-county seawater contamination challenge and express our interest in working together on the Project Agreement with the aim to finalize by May 2019.

Subsequent to the March 5 meeting, a member of the public expressed comments regarding Item 6.4’s agenda description and approval via a Motion. Accordingly, for transparency and for clarity, a Motion concerning the Board’s direction that Staff continue to pursue the split facility configuration design is now before the Board for its consideration.

POSSIBLE BOARD ACTIONS(S)

1. By MOTION, confirms its approval of the Basis of Design Report (BODR) and to initiate preliminary design for the treatment components of the Pure Water Soquel project and affirms that Staff is directed to only advance the split-facility configuration (tertiary at SCWWTF and AWPf at Chanticleer site); or
2. Take no action.

By 
Melanie Mow Schumacher
Special Projects-Communications Manager

Board of Directors

Dr. Thomas R. LaHue, President
Dr. Bruce Daniels, Vice-President
Dr. Bruce Jaffe
Carla Christensen
Rachél Lather

Ron Duncan, *General Manager*

April 11, 2019

Mr. Martín Bernal, City Manager
City of Santa Cruz
809 Center Street, Room 10
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: Pure Water Soquel Project

Dear Mr. Bernal,

On behalf of the Soquel Creek Water District, thank you for your letter dated February 28, 2019, that reaffirms the City's commitment to support the District in its endeavor of implementing the Pure Water Soquel Project to provide our customers a reliable water supply future and aid in preventing further seawater intrusion from contaminating the Santa Cruz Mid-County groundwater basin.

We appreciate the continued partnership and collaboration in evaluating and increasing beneficial reuse by our two agencies over the last several years, including, but not limited to, the June 2016 Letter of Interest from the City and the July 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the City and District.

At its December 18, 2018 meeting, the District's Board of Directors certified the project-level Environmental Impact Report and approved the project. Following that meeting, on February 5, 2019 the District Board approved developing basis of design reports for up two facility configurations: (1) split configuration with Tertiary component at Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility (SCWWTF) and Advanced Water Purification (AWP) at Chanticleer Ave site and (2) the full AWP at the SCWWTF and asked staff to provide an update at the March 5, 2019 Board meeting.

At the March 5, 2019 meeting, staff provided an update on the coordination efforts between City and District staff and your February 28 letter, which stated *"The City continues to support the District's intent of implementing the tertiary treatment for its Pure Water Soquel Project at the WWTF and looks forward to working on the Project Agreement in the coming months to finalize the terms and conditions and continue our coordinated efforts as the District proceeds into final design."*

Based on this input from the City and the priority of the District's Board of not delaying development of the Pure Water Soquel Project, staff from both the City and District have been working together on the initial steps of the basis of design developments for a split facility configuration (tertiary at SCWWTF and AWP at Chanticleer site) and the Project Agreement, which we hope to finalize in May 2019.

Mr. Martín Bernal, City Manager
City of Santa Cruz
April 17, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Thank you again for your continued collaboration on water reliability and sustainability issues, both for recycled water and surface water.

Sincerely,
SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Duncan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron Duncan
General Manager

cc: Mark Dettle, Public Works Director
Rosemary Menard, Water Director