



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: November 26, 2008 REPORT NO: 08-182

ATTENTION: Council President and City Council
Docket of December 2, 2008

SUBJECT: Wet Weather Storage Facility/NCWRP – Wet Weather Intermittent
Stream Discharge Feasibility Study – Phase II

REQUESTED ACTION:

1. Authorize the Mayor or his designee to enter into and execute a contract with RMC Water and Environment, for an amount not to exceed \$450,000, for professional consultant services for the NCWRP – Wet Weather Intermittent Stream Discharge Feasibility Study-Phase II.
2. Authorize the expenditure of \$450,000 from CIP 45-940.0, Wet Weather Storage Facility, Fund 41509, for this contract.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the Resolutions.

SUMMARY:

Background:

The objective of this feasibility study is to investigate the possibility of discharging reclaimed water from the City of San Diego's North City Water Reclamation Plant (NCWRP) to streams during extreme wet weather events and to provide sufficient data and analyses to support a permit application to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

Reclaimed water from the 30-mgd NCWRP is distributed to irrigation and industrial customers within the northern portion of the City via a reclaimed water distribution system. During periods of wet weather, there is much less demand for reclaimed water and most NCWRP flows are discharged back into the sewer system for transport to the City's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it is retreated prior to discharge to the Pacific Ocean. Additionally, during such periods of wet weather, total system-wide influent to the Point Loma plant is increased as a result of inflow and infiltration into the Metropolitan Sewer System. Therefore, MWWD seeks to evaluate the potential for intermittent discharge to streams as a method of offloading its collection, pumping, and treatment facilities during extreme wet weather events.

The evaluation of such discharge potential is a necessary component of the Metropolitan Wastewater master planning. The current sewer rate case includes the Wet Weather Storage Facility, CIP 45-940.0. This proposed project utilizes a 7 million gallon underground storage tank located near Pump Station 2, which will intercept and store peak wet weather flow for discharge during off-peak hours. This facility will reduce the risk of potential wet weather spills. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit allowing a stream discharge will provide a viable alternative to the storage tank contemplated under the Wet Weather Storage Facility project at greatly reduced cost, thus deferring the associated capital investment by at least 5 years.

Project Status:

The Purchasing and Contracting Department advertised for professional engineering services in September 2007. Only one proposal was received; the small response was largely attributed to the special expertise required for this comprehensive feasibility study. The presentation and interview for the selection of the consultant was conducted in October 2007. The selection panel included a representative from the Equal Opportunity Contracting Program (EOCP). RMC Water and Environment (RMC) was selected per Council Policy 300-07 to complete the feasibility study based on their expertise and prior experiences with both year-round and wet weather intermittent stream discharge studies and projects.

This project was reviewed by the Natural Resources and Culture Committee (NR&C) at its February 27, 2008 meeting and was recommended by the Committee for City Council approval. At the March 25, 2008 City Council Meeting, several environmental and community groups expressed concern that this project was not made known to them in advance and requested a briefing from staff prior to the Council's approval. In consideration of the request, the Council decided to defer action on this issue for a month to allow the briefing to take place.

On April 10, 2008, MWWD staff met with the environmental and community stakeholders who participated in the March 25, 2008 Council meeting to detail the purpose and scope of this project. During the briefing, the stakeholders discussed various issues in regards to regulatory requirements, environmental impacts, and long-term wastewater planning and concluded with a recommendation to divide the feasibility study into two phases. Among the concerns, the stakeholders wanted an assessment of the likelihood of acquiring the stream discharge permit from the RWQCB before expending the money for the entire feasibility study.

In concurrence with the stakeholders, MWWD staff divided the project into two phases to be performed under two separate agreements. The scopes of the two phases are as follows: Phase I involved engaging key stakeholders in the process and assessed the likelihood of RWQCB staff responding favorably to a future permit application; Phase II includes sampling and testing of the stream water, discharge frequency analysis, diversion facility planning, hydraulic and environmental impact analyses, permit compliance assistance, and stakeholder workshops. If the results of Phase I indicated a reasonable likelihood of obtaining a RWQCB permit, proceeding with Phase II would be recommended. From the perspective of effort and cost, Phase I represents only about 7.5 percent of the entire feasibility study.

The Phase I contract, in the amount of \$35,756, was awarded to RMC under the Mayor's authority in May 2008. In October 2008, RMC completed the Phase I study, which involved workshops with the stakeholders on June 26, 2008 and September 18, 2008, and a consultation meeting with the RWQCB staff. In summary, RMC's Phase I study concluded that both the stakeholders and RWQCB staff are supportive of performing the data collection and technical analyses included in Phase II. The RWQCB currently does not have a policy or prohibition regarding this type of extreme wet weather discharge. The key findings of the Phase I study are listed as follows:

1. The wet weather intermittent stream discharge shall be considered as an interim solution until long-term capacity solutions for the Metro System are in place.
2. Phase II shall determine the frequency and duration of hydrologic events that may result in the need for wet weather stream discharge.
3. Phase II shall demonstrate that discharge volume and frequency would not have significant water quality, hydrologic, geomorphic, and/or habitat impacts in the receiving watersheds.
4. Phase II shall determine if a diversion component would be adequate to mitigate for nutrient loading during wet weather stream discharge.
5. The RWQCB currently has no policy or prohibition regarding this type of extreme wet weather discharge.
6. Both the stakeholders and RWQCB staff acknowledged the importance of the data collection and technical analysis included in the proposed Phase II study. It was acknowledged that the data and findings of the Phase II study could provide a basis for the RWQCB in establishing policy for this type of discharge.
7. Close coordination and communication shall be maintained with the stakeholders and RWQCB staff during the Phase II study.
8. City shall develop alternative wet weather flow management strategies to assure the stakeholders and the RWQCB that a wet weather intermittent discharge project will be removed from service by 2025.

Recommendation

MWWD recommends retaining RMC for the Phase II study. In October 2007, RMC was selected per Council Policy 300-07 for the entire feasibility study, consisting of both Phase I and II. The recommendation is to authorize the Mayor or his designee to enter into and execute a contract with RMC to perform the Phase II study. Input from both stakeholders and RWQCB staff was used to modify the original scope of work for Phase II. Phase II has a total cost of not-to-exceed \$450,000. The study is expected to be completed in 12 months after the issuance of the notice to proceed.

Equal Opportunity Contracting

Funding Agency:	City of San Diego
Goals:	15% voluntary (MBE/WBE/DBE/DVBE/OBE)
Subconsultant Participation:	\$84,338 Other Firms (18%)

Other: Work Force Report Submitted. RMC's local office has fewer than 15 employees and is therefore exempt from the employment category goals.

To support their Equal Opportunity Contracting commitment, as part of their outreach efforts, RMC sent a letter to San Diego Contracting Opportunities Center (SDCOC) inviting interested subconsultants to participate on the RMC team. SDCOC forwarded the letter to 68 contractors. RMC also attended the pre-proposal meeting held by the City in September 2007 to network with potential subcontractors. One of the RMC's subconsultants in this contract, Talavera & Richardson – 3 % participation, is certified as a MBE by the County and City of San Francisco, but is not yet certified by the California Unified Certification Program.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Authorize the expenditure of \$450,000 from CIP 45-940.0, Wet Weather Storage Facility, Fund 41509, for this contract.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION:

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

Stakeholder meetings were held on April 10, 2008, June 26, 2008, and September 18, 2008. Attendees included representatives from the Key Stakeholders listed below. The stakeholder group reviewed the scope of work for Phase II and did not object to moving forward.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

RMC Water and Environment, Marian Bear Park Recreation Council, San Diego Audubon Society, San Diego Coastkeeper, Friends of Rose Canyon, Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Program, Land Conservancy Brokerage, and Coast Law Group, LLC. No significant impact is projected at the present time.



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 11.12.08

J.M. Barrett
Director of Public Utilities