



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Thaxton Van Belle, General Manager of Utilities
Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager
DATE June 20, 2023
SUBJECT: Presentation of Recycled Water Facilitator Findings and Recommendation

Description A Presentation of the Recycled Water Facilitator's Report.

Background and Analysis:

On October 4, 2022, the City awarded a contract to T.R. Holliman & Associates to provide recycled water implementation services. The project scope, selection of the consultant, and cost-sharing were done in partnership with Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) and San Geronimo Pass Water Agency (SGPWA).

The goal of the consultant was to provide an independent assessment, analysis, and recommendation for the future use of recycled water. Tasks included data collection and review of documents, studies, and correspondences pertaining to the subject, individual facilitation meetings with each of the three agencies in the form of "2x2" meetings, ongoing project facilitation and support, and the preparation of technical memos presenting the recommended conceptual plan and associated options for recycled water implementation.

On June 1, 2023, T.R. Holliman & Associates presented the results of their study to all three agencies' "2x2" committees collectively or a "2³" committee (Attachment A). The City was presented with three options:

1. Wholesale the recycled water to BCVWD for use and distribution, with a hold-harmless agreement and agreed-upon pricing structure.
2. The City designs, constructs, and operates a recycled water system and spreading basins.
3. The City designs and builds a pump station and pipeline(s) to local golf courses in exchange for their overlying water rights.

The recommended plan incorporated the options presented to all three agencies and is summarized as follows:

1. The City produces high quality recycled water and enters an agreement with BCVWD to “take or pay” all available recycled water with a hold-harmless agreement.
2. BCVWD builds, operates, and maintains all facilities to distribute the recycled water for approved uses, including groundwater recharge.
3. SGPWA expands its current hydrological modeling to monitor groundwater recharge, makes its basins available for additional recharging efforts, and hosts meetings at its headquarters.

All of these actions were recommended to take place under some form of governance ranging from the existing “2x2” committees to forming a joint powers authority (JPA).

To participate in any of the above actions, the City is required to comply with its salt mitigation makeup requirements per the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and perform an environmental study in conjunction with filing a change-of-use petition with the State’s Division of Water Rights.

As part of the discussion with the 2³, it was agreed upon that each agency would return to their respective boards for an update thus far for informational purposes and consensus; the three agency staff heads would schedule a follow-up meeting with the idea of acting as a technical advisory committee to the 2³; and finally, the 2³ would meet again within the next month for additional discussion. All attendees agreed that collaboration was of paramount importance and that continuing communication was desired by all.

Fiscal Impact:

Staff estimates the cost to prepare this report is \$200.

Recommended Action:

Receive and file.

Attachments:

- A. T.R. Holliman & Associates Recycled Water Implementation Plan Outline