# Staff Report

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Thaxton Van Belle, Director of Water Reclamation

**DATE** June 17, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Adaptive Management and Mitigation Plan (AMMP) Update - Provide Direction on the Quantity of Recycled Water to Pursue – Capital Improvement Project No. WW-14

---

**Description:** Strategic Plan Target 4.1. Phase one of the Adaptive Management and Mitigation Plan (AMMP) is complete, and direction is needed to pursue the study's initial supported quantity of recycled water, or to pursue addition quantities, resulting in increased costs and timeline.

**Background and Analysis:**

The City has initiated plans to reduce the discharge of treated wastewater (i.e., recycled water) from the Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Cooper's Creek and divert that water for other beneficial uses. To reduce the volume of discharge to Cooper's Creek, the City must file a Wastewater Change Petition (Change Petition) under California Water Code Section 1211 with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Water Rights.

City Staff and representatives of the City Council met with Division of Water Rights staff to discuss the process and tips for success. The Division of Water Rights staff advised that the City develop an Adaptive Management and Mitigation Plan (AMMP) to facilitate the approval process for the reduced discharge prior to filing the Change Petition.

An AMMP ensures there is a plan and program in place to assess and mitigate, if necessary, any riparian habitat impacts that result from reducing the WWTP discharge to Cooper's Creek. The AMMP defines the monitoring, adaptive triggers, and mitigation measures implemented to manage the effects of reduced discharge to Cooper's Creek and San Timoteo Creeks.

On August 15, 2023, the City awarded a professional services agreement to Tom Dodson & Associates to prepare an AMMP. The first phase of the project involved characterizing both historical and current conditions to support the development of the AMMP. This first phase has been completed, and a report has been issued

(Attachment A). Based on the analyses and conclusions in the Phase 1 report, a reduced discharge of 1.7 million gallons per day (MGD) would likely sustain groundwater levels and maintain the health of riparian habitats. A reduced discharge below 1.7 MGD would require additional analysis to support the potential impact.

Before the second phase can begin, which consists of a feasibility assessment incorporating the findings from the first phase and continued baseline monitoring, direction is needed on which reduced discharge scenario to pursue:

- Scenario 1 - Reduce discharge to 1.7 MGD.
- Scenario 2 - Explore a discharge lower than 1.7 MGD.

Considerations:

- Scenario 1:
    - Requires implementation of the baseline monitoring program and CEQA.
    - Timeline of approximately two years with incremental reductions to discharge flow.
    - Increased monitoring costs of approximately $415,000*.
    - Volume supported by the Phase 1 report.
    - Aligns with the 1.8 MGD value established in the treatment plant discharge permit.
- Scenario 2:
    - Requires implementation of the baseline monitoring program and CEQA.
    - Requires modeling of the hydrologic system and its response to a suite of reduced discharges.
    - Timeline of approximately two years with incremental reductions to discharge flow and one year for modeling, or a total of three years.
    - Increased monitoring costs of approximately $415,000, plus $565,000 in modeling, or $980,000*.
    - Potential increase in available recycled water.
    - No guarantee of additional volume.

      *Note: Monetary values are taken from the 02/14/25 Tech Memo with Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) costs. No additional funding is being requested at this time. Once a scenario to pursue is selected, staff will bring forward a change order for Council consideration.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The estimated cost to prepare this report is $750.

The AMMP (Project WW-14) is currently funded by Recycled Water DIF funds, and no direct fiscal impacts are associated with this item. Currently, there are sufficient Recycled Water DIF funds to pursue either of the presented scenarios.

**Recommended Action:**

Direct staff to pursue Scenario 1, reduction of discharge to 1.7 MGD.

**Attachments:**

A. AMMP Phase 1 Report
B. Tech Memo
C. Presentation Slides