



Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Thaxton Van Belle, Director of Water Reclamation
DATE: February 17, 2026
SUBJECT: Recycled Water Update

Description: *Strategic Plan Target 4 – Finances/Resources – Goal 1 – Obtain a Recycled Water Permit to enhance water sustainability, support long-term resource management, and ensure a reliable, environmentally responsible water supply for the community.* Recycled Water review and progress update.

Background and Analysis:

The purpose of this staff report is to provide a historical overview of the City's efforts to produce recycled water and project a timeline for the deployment of recycled water.

The City's historical efforts are long and complicated and include a previous start and stop of a change petition, enforcement actions by the waterboard, followed by the successful completion of a new wastewater treatment plant. See Attachment A.) Historical Milestone Table for historical highlights.

In November of 2022, the City received certification for the production of recycled water as defined by Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

In April of 2023, City staff and City Council members met with the Division of Water Rights in Sacramento to discuss the change petition process, requirements, and tips for a successful petition. With the information gathered in Sacramento, the City engaged in an environmental study to review the effects of removing a volume of water from the receiving creek.

The Adaptive Management and Mitigation Plan (AMMP) kicked off in August of 2023, and the Phase 1 report was delivered in May of 2025. The Phase 1 report indicated support for diverting flows in excess of 1.7 MGD for recycled water, or a more aggressive approach could be investigated using modeling, which would involve additional costs and time and carry no guarantee of success. See Attachment B) Phase 1 Schedule and Timeline for a summary of these efforts.

In June of 2025, City Council directed Staff to pursue the initial study supported value of 1.7MGD.

In July of 2025, City Council directed Staff to pursue a “Hybrid” approach for the delivery of recycled water. The intent is to maximize recycled water use via purple pipe and utilize any remaining volumes for groundwater recharge, in partnerships with local agencies.

On July 30, 2025, staff, along with Tom Dodson & Associates, and legal counsel from Somach, Simmons, and Dunn, met with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Water Rights staff, presented the AMMP and findings and intended recycled water uses, and inquired about filing a 1211 Change Petition. Based on discussions with the current SWRCB staff, a completed application for a 1211 Change Petition will require both compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) through a Focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the draft AMMP.

In September of 2025, the Dodson & Associates contract was amended to include the required CEQA work. See Attachment C) Phase 2 Schedule and Milestones for the projected timeline.

In January of 2026, the City and San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) jointly launched a siting study for possible future groundwater recharge locations and clarification of regional requirements.

Currently, the City is working with Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) in forming an MOU for recycled water and aiding in the development of CEQA documents.

The City’s Salt Mitigation payback completion is on pace for completion in Q1 of 2028. See Attachment D) TDS Mitigation for a salt mitigation timeline.

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated cost to prepare this staff report is \$500.

Recommended Action:

Receive and file.

Attachments:

- A. Historical Milestone Table

- B. Phase 1 Schedule and Timeline
- C. Phase 2 Schedule and Milestones
- D. TDS Mitigation
- E. Presentation Slides