



## *City of Colusa City Council* **STAFF REPORT**

**DATE:** May 20, 2025  
**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Jesse Cain, City Manager

### **AGENDA ITEM:**

Authorize the City Manager to purchase replacements of 2 brush aerators in Sludge Stabilization Basin (SSB) #2 for \$73,282.

**REQUESTED ACTION:** City Council to authorize the City Manager to proceed with the single-source procurement of replacement brush aerators for the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), due to compatibility requirements with the plant's original design and infrastructure.

### **BACKGROUND/ ANALYSIS:**

As Council is aware, for the last several years the city has been planning, designing and installing various improvements to the City's WWTP and sewer system. The City's Wastewater Treatment Plant was originally constructed in 2007 and has been operating with brush-type surface aerators as part of its secondary treatment process. These aerators are essential for maintaining proper dissolved oxygen levels in the aeration basins, which support biological treatment of wastewater.

Due to the unique structural and mechanical specifications of the original plant design, the existing brush aerators are only compatible with equipment manufactured by the original supplier: **ECE House Industries Inc.** Replacing the aerators with a different model or manufacturer would require significant structural modifications, including re-engineering the aeration basins, mounting systems, and electrical connections—resulting in substantially higher costs and extended downtime.

After evaluating available options, staff has determined that replacing the existing units with updated models from the original manufacturer is the most cost-effective and operationally sound solution. This single-source approach is necessary to ensure seamless integration with the current infrastructure and to minimize service disruption.

In accordance with the City's procurement policy, single-source purchases are permitted when compatibility, standardization, or unique expertise justifies non-competitive procurement.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 – Existing Facilities. The replacement of mechanical equipment with no expansion of capacity is considered maintenance of an existing public utility

## **CONCLUSION**

The existing aerators are beyond their useful life and pose a risk to the reliable operation of WWTP. Due to compatibility constraints, a single-source procurement from the original manufacturer is necessary and in the City’s best interest. Staff recommends Council approval to proceed with the replacement project.

## **BUDGET IMPACT**

The estimated cost for replacing the brush aerators, including equipment, freight, and installation, is **\$73,282**. Funds are available in the Wastewater Capital Improvement Fund, which includes allocations for major equipment replacement.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS/COUNCIL ALTERNATIVES:**

Staff recommends purchasing two brush aerators as soon as possible and budget for the purchase of an additional two brush aerators next Fiscal Year.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

ECS House Industries, 15 hp SDB120 Specifications  
Colusa CA, 15 hp Proposal, January 2025

A Resolution of the City Council of the City Of Colusa to Purchase Two Brush Aerators and budget for an additional two aerators in Fiscal Year 2026

