

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: November 28, 2023

Subject Consider authorizing Addendum No. 12 to the Regional Water Quality Control Plant Basic Agreement; and consider finding that the Council's action is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 and that none of the circumstances in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies.

Prepared by:	Thanh Nguyen, Senior Civil Engineer
Reviewed by:	Aida Fairman, Public Works Director
Approved by:	Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Resolution

Attachment 2 – Addendum 12 to the Basic Agreement Between the City of Palo Alto, the City of Mountain View, and the City Of Los Altos for the Acquisition, Construction, and Maintenance of a Joint Sewer System

Attachment 3 – Map Image

Attachment 4 – Bid Summary

Initiated by:

Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) Long-Range Facilities Plan

Previous Council Consideration:

- June 26, 2012 Oral presentation from the City of Palo Alto regarding the Final Draft report of the Long-Range Facilities Plan for the RWQCP for informational purposes only.
- February 23, 2016 Approval of Addendum 8 for the design of the Primary Sedimentation Tank Rehabilitation and Secondary Treatment Upgrades Projects.
- May 26, 2020 Approval of Addendum No. 10 for constructing the Primary Sedimentation Tank Rehabilitation Project.
- November 29, 2022 Approval of Addendum 11 for constructing the Primary Sedimentation Tank Rehabilitation and the Secondary Treatment Upgrades Projects.

City Manager

Reviewed By:

Finance Director

<u>GE</u>

City Attorney JH

JD



Fiscal Impact:

The estimated total project construction expenses contributed by the contributing partner agency for the Joint Intercepting Sewer Rehabilitation (Phase 1) project are summarized in Table 1 below. The cost share amount for the City of Los Altos is \$1,262,089. This will be paid out of the sewer administration operating budget account # 8110-5270 over the next two to three years.

Contributing Partner Agency	Cost Sharing
Mountain View	\$5,159,619
Palo Alto	\$1,947,106
Los Altos	\$1,262,089
Los Altos Hills	\$338,516
East Palo Alto Sanitary District	\$104,904
Stanford University	\$122,736
Total:	\$8,934,970

Environmental Review:

The construction of this project is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, subsection (b), as it involves the repair and maintenance of an existing publicly-owned utility used to provide sewerage treatment services with no expansion on the existing facility. A Notice of Exemption was submitted to the Santa Clara County Clerk-Recorder's office by _____ and was recorded on August 7, 2023 (File No. ENV24700).

Summary:

- The Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) provides wastewater treatment services for the cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, the Town of Los Altos Hills, East Palo Alto Sanitary District, and Stanford University. Over the years, the costs for projects to upgrade the RWQCP have been shared proportionally by the various agencies.
- In 2012, the RWQCP Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) was prepared to provide a plan for future capital improvement program projects--addressing aging equipment and increasing regulatory requirements.
- Joint Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1 project addresses aging infrastructure.



Staff Recommendation:

Authorize the City Manager to execute Addendum No. 12 to the Regional Water Quality Control Plant Basic Agreement between the cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Los Altos to fund the rehabilitation of the Joint Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1 project



Purpose

Authorize the City Manager to execute Addendum No. 12 to the Regional Water Quality Control Plant Basic Agreement between the cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Los Altos to fund the rehabilitation of the Joint Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1 project.

Background

In 1968, the cities of Mountain View and Los Altos agreed to retire their wastewater treatment plants and approved a contract with the City of Palo Alto (Basic Agreement, also referred to as the Partners Agreement) for the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of a joint wastewater treatment plant. The Plant began operating in 1972. The Basic Agreement was originally set to expire on July 1, 2035, but was extended to December 31, 2060, as part of Addendum No. 8.

The Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (Treatment Plant) provides wastewater treatment services for the cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, the Town of Los Altos Hills, East Palo Alto Sanitary District, and Stanford University. Over the years, various agencies have shared project costs to upgrade the Treatment Plant.

The Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP, Plant) owns and maintains a 72-inch diameter trunk sewer known as the Joint Intercepting Sewer (JIS), which conveys raw sewage from Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and a portion of Palo Alto. There are other sewers leading to the RWQCP, but these are maintained by the Utilities Department, Stanford University, and the East Palo Alto Sanitary District.

The JIS was constructed in 1972 and consists of multiple sections of 60-inch and 72-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipes with gasketed bell and spigot joints. The original pipe is unlined with no external coating. The pipes are approximately 9,000 feet long. The pipeline's alignment starts at a metering station located at 1151 San Antonio Road on the border of Palo Alto and Mountain View. The alignment runs northwest and below grade through the Baylands Nature Preserve and along the western edge of the City's closed landfill. The pipeline ends at an influent junction box inside the RWQCP.

The need for rehabilitation or replacement of the Joint Intercepting Sewer was first identified in the Long Range Facilities Plan (LFRP), which was adopted by the Palo Alto Council in July 2012. The need for rehabilitation was confirmed in 2020 via a condition assessment, which included closed circuit television (CCTV) inspection, sonar inspection, and visual inspections of the entire pipe length. Based on the findings, the downstream sections (approximately 2,364 feet) closest to the Plant exhibited the greatest deterioration. The lower section of the pipeline has exposed and corroded structural rebar, spalling, and cracked concrete, and a noticeable offset and separation at some pipe joints and manholes. This Joint Intercepting Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1 Project will rehabilitate the deteriorated 2,364-foot section of pipeline and manholes. A design contract



(Contract No. 22183804) was awarded to Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. by Palo Alto Council on May 16, 2022 (SR #14164). The design was completed in August 2023.

Based on a 2020 sewer inspection, the upstream sections (approximately 6,600 feet to the metering station) show less severe deterioration and will be reassessed in the next five to ten years to establish the timing and need for the Phase 2 rehabilitation work. See the attached figure showing the project phases (Attachment B).

The City of Los Altos' Council approved Addendum No. 8 in 2016, Addendum No. 9 in 2018, Addendum No. 10 in 2020, and Addendum No. 11 in 2022 to authorize the construction and costsharing of a sludge dewatering and truck loadout facility, funding for the design of the secondary treatment upgrades project; and funding for the design and construction of the primary sedimentation tank rehabilitation project. Construction of the sludge dewatering facility was completed in 2019, a key component of the LRFP. The primary sedimentation tank rehabilitation project is in construction and will be completed in 2023. Other facilities requiring capital improvement in the next ten years for facilities at the end of their useful life include a new outfall pipe, new support facilities, the relining of an aging joint intercepting sewer, and a new headworks facility.

Design work for the Joint Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1 project is complete. On August 29, 2023, the City of Palo Alto solicited formal bids from qualified contractors for this Project. The bidding period was 49 calendar days. Three bids were received on October 16, 2023, with bid prices ranging from \$7,347,700 to \$11,051,740 as listed in the attached Bid Summary (Attachment C). The lowest responsible bid was \$7.3 million submitted by SAK Construction, LLC. The maximum total cost for construction and construction management services, including 10% contingency, is \$8,934,970. This total cost is scheduled to be approved by Palo Alto Council on December 11, 2023. The City of Los Altos will be contributing a maximum not-to-exceed amount of \$1,262,089 to be funded from the Sewer Administration Operating Budget.

Discussion/Analysis

Addendum No. 12 will authorize construction funding to rehabilitate the Joint Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1 project.

Previously, Council approved Addendum No. 11 to authorize the maximum amount of financing for the construction funding of the Primary Sedimentation Tank Rehabilitation and the Secondary Treatment Upgrades projects. Addendum No. 12 will authorize the maximum amount of financing for the construction of the Joint Intercepting Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1 project, including design engineering, construction management, program management, and construction costs.

This Project will rehabilitate approximately 2,364 feet of the 9,000 feet of the joint intercepting



sewer from Manhole No. 4 to the Plant's influent junction box (i.e., JB-0). Attachment B shows the alignment of the joint intercepting sewer needing rehabilitation and the upstream section. Rehabilitation includes repairing and recoating the interior of existing manholes and the influent junction box. An above-grade temporary bypass pumping system consisting of pumps and piping will be installed in the vicinity of the existing sewer pipeline to allow the contractor to access, clean, inspect and rehabilitate the interior of the sewer line and manholes. Pipe rehabilitation will be cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) method, in which a resin-impregnated liner is inserted, expanded, cured, and adhered onto the existing pipe's interior surfaces. The cured liner will become a new pipe inside the existing host pipe, providing structural strengthening as well as smoother and corrosion-resistant surfaces that would not reduce the trunk sewer's service capacity. Its service life is expected to be extended by 25 to 50 years. This method will result in minimal site disturbance and require the least amount of construction staging area compared to other repair methods, such as open trench pipe replacement. Through January 2023, the Palo Alto Utilities Department has utilized CIPP lining on City of Palo Alto sewers, having rehabilitated approximately 23,025 feet (4.36 miles) of the City's pipes ranging from 6 inches to 42 inches in diameter.

Construction activities are expected to take place inside the RWQCP (30 percent of the work) and outside the RWQCP (70 percent of the work) along the alignment of the sewer interceptor on small undeveloped areas outside the plant's fence line and gravel access road west of Byxbee Park. Temporary fencing will be set up along the boundary of the project site. Construction fences will have six to eight inches of openings at the bottom to allow wildlife to pass through the area. Screening will be attached to project fencing to reduce noise and light outside the construction area. An informational site map showing the URL to the project's website on cleanbay.org and detour signs will be set up on trails at appropriate locations. Construction activities lasting up to five months will occur during daytime only and traffic will be limited to material and fuel deliveries. When construction vehicles travel outside of fenced work area, traffic control flaggers will walk ahead and behind each truck to ensure public safety. The contractor's personnel will be onsite 24/7 to monitor the temporary bypass pumping system, which is expected to last two to four months. The temporary bypass pumps will be enclosed to comply with noise ordinances; pumps and piping are sealed to contain odors. Illumination, as needed to meet OSHA safety's requirements, at the bypass pumps, will be soft lights with directional shields and with on/off switches. City staff will coordinate with other projects in the Baylands (e.g., the Horizontal Levee Project) to minimize schedule and parking impacts.

A biological survey was conducted by two qualified biologists from the project's design consultant, Jacobs, on March 1, 2023, at the proposed project site and a 250-foot buffer zone away from the site. The field survey showed no sensitive habitat within the project site and that construction activities are not anticipated to directly or indirectly impact adjacent aquatic resources and special-status plants and animals that were determined to be absent or unlikely to occur within



the project footprint. Special-status birds, including salt marsh common yellowthroat, Alameda song sparrow, and burrowing owl, could nest outside and near the project footprint. As a standard construction practice, preconstruction surveys for nesting birds and burrowing owls will be conducted 24 days and 24 hours prior to the start of field construction activities. If active nests are detected, buffers around nests will be established to ensure breeding is not disrupted or adversely impacted by construction.

Recommendation

Authorize the City Manager to execute Addendum No. 12 to the Regional Water Quality Control Plant Basic Agreement between the cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Los Altos to fund the rehabilitation of the Joint Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1 project