



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: Award of Laboratory Services Contract to Alpha Analytical Laboratories
From: Paul Sellier, Director of Water Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: August 19, 2025

TYPE OF ITEM: X Action Information

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Alpha Analytical Laboratories for water quality laboratory services in an amount not to exceed \$319,219 for fiscal year 2026

SUMMARY: Each year, the District performs extensive water quality sampling and monitoring throughout the water system to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations. Samples collected from the water system must be analyzed at a state certified ELAP (Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program) laboratory as required under the District's water supply permit to operate a public water system. Staff recommends the Board authorize the General Manager execute a professional services agreement with Alpha Analytical Laboratories to perform laboratory water quality analyses.

DISCUSSION: The District takes many steps to ensure the water delivered to customers is of the highest quality, including managing our watershed lands and reservoirs, 24/7 operation of water treatment processes, monitoring of a complex distribution system, and maintaining and upgrading our facilities. Each year, the District conducts more than 115,000 water quality and process control tests to ensure water provided to customers continues to meet or exceed all state and federal drinking water standards and is safe to drink. This monitoring program includes ongoing process control testing at our treatment plants as well as laboratory testing of our water samples in compliance with the District's water supply permit issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Monitoring of water quality is required in conformance with state and federal regulations including: State of California Title 22 Drinking Water, Revised Total Coliform Rule, Lead and Copper Rule, and Disinfectant Byproduct Rule Stage II.

In April 2025, the District reorganized the District's on site laboratory to achieve greater efficiency by focusing personnel resources on field work and contracting out additional routine water quality analytical services to two main water quality labs. In addition to the services proposed by Alpha, the District also uses another ELAP certified lab called Eurofins for longer hold time items. The costs for

services provided by Eurofins are not typically of an amount to require board approval. For example, this fiscal year it is anticipated that the services provided by Eurofins will be approximately \$85,000. Eurofins was not included in the current proposal for additional ELAP laboratory services because they are not able to meet the short hold times required for these types of analyses; however, they provide excellent value for the longer hold time samples.

In May 2025, District staff requested proposals for laboratory services for fiscal year 2026 from three local environmental laboratories: Alpha Analytical Laboratories, McCampbell Analytical, and CalTest Analytical Laboratories. All three laboratories submitted proposals that were reviewed by Water Quality staff. Alpha Analytical Labs was selected due to competitive cost and ability to regularly provide courier service for sample pick up.

Table 1: Proposed Costs for Laboratory Services

ELAP Laboratory	FY26 Proposed Cost
Alpha Analytical Labs	\$319,219
McCampbell Analytical	\$341,647
CalTest Analytical Labs	\$395,795



Alpha Analytical is a California ELAP certified lab network with multiple labs located in California, including in Petaluma, Livermore, and Ukiah that frequently analyze drinking water samples for a variety of compliance parameters including microbiology. The analyses included for FY26 are primarily short-hold time analyses requiring analysis preparation within 8-28 hours after sample collection in the field, including microbiology, wet chemistry parameters (pH, color, turbidity), nitrate, nitrite, orthophosphate, alkalinity, etc. The District has contracted laboratory analysis services to Alpha Analytical for many years and continues to be very satisfied with the service and work provided by Alpha.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total cost impact associated with the agreement is \$319,219. Funds are included in the FY 2025-26 Budget.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. FY25-26 Water Quality Analysis Cost

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Water Resources	 Paul Sellier Water Resources Director	 Ben Horenstein General Manager