



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: Award of Contract for the Water Treatment Master Plan Update
From: Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: March 17, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: X Action Information

RECOMMENDATION: Approve a professional services agreement with Woodard & Curran for professional engineering services for the Water Treatment and Transmission System Master Plan Update, in an amount not to exceed \$575,969, and Authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement

SUMMARY: This item was reviewed by the District Planning Committee on January 27, 2026. Increased water quality concerns resulting from a changing climate, a desire for increased water supply resiliency, and a need to prioritize treatment plant projects within the larger Capital Improvement Program have led staff to initiate an update to the 2015 Water Treatment Master Plan. Staff solicited competitive proposals to assist the District on the Water Treatment and Transmission System Master Plan Update from multiple firms that have experience in evaluating treatment plants using a risk based approach.

Staff recommends that the Board approve a professional services agreement with Woodard & Curran for professional engineering services for the Water Treatment and Transmission System Master Plan, in an amount not to exceed \$575,969 and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement.

DISCUSSION: The District constructed its two main treatment plants, Bon Tempe Treatment Plant (BTTP) and San Geronimo Treatment Plant (SGTP), between 1958 and 1963. Since then, building codes and drinking water regulations have changed significantly, including the adoption of the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974. Various upgrades and process changes have taken place since initial construction, and while the existing plant capacities are adequate under normal operating conditions, both plants require rehabilitation to assure their continued service into the future and to meet demand under non-routine conditions such as power outages or following a major earthquake. A comprehensive evaluation was performed of both treatment plants in 2014 and the District's existing San Geronimo and Bon Tempe Water Treatment Plants Master Plan Report (Report) was published in 2015.

The primary drivers of the Report were to evaluate the plants' aging infrastructure reliability, seismic resiliency, operational reliability, and water quality all under the assumption that the BTTP would serve as the District's emergency water treatment plant. A facilities evaluation looked at the two water treatment plants and provided structural, architectural, mechanical, power supply, and instrumentation and control recommendations. As a result of these evaluations, staff recommended specific projects to address the respective plants' vulnerabilities. Some of the identified projects from the 2015 report, such as the filter rehabilitation and mechanical and electrical upgrades at both Bon Tempe and San Geronimo, have been completed, while others, such as the installation of new clarifiers at San Geronimo, have not.

Additionally, while the Report noted the District meets all existing and foreseeable water quality standards, it did note the presence of taste and odor (T&O) issues but did not provide recommendations for a new disinfection process. Considering global warming and climate change into the future, the District can expect to see more frequent dry weather and droughts, T&O events, algal blooms, and potential increased regulation around harmful algal blooms. While staff cannot predict the exact nature of how these issues may evolve, this forecast shows it prudent to revisit the Report's findings and re-evaluate the potential of moving to ozone treatment. Moving to ozone treatment would not only provide a mechanism for the District to reduce T&O issues and the effects of harmful algal blooms but would also drastically reduce disinfection by-products throughout the system. Pursuing ozone treatment would require new changes to the treatment system, which were not included in the 2015 Report. If ozone is installed, the hydraulic grade line of the water would need to be evaluated comprehensively across the entire treatment system since the clarifiers would likely need to be positioned at a higher grade.

To further support the need for the Water Treatment Master Plan Update, it is important to note that treatment plant projects that were not recommended or analyzed in the Report have been completed since 2015. Most notably, the District completed installation of a three-megawatt (MW) generator at San Geronimo Treatment Plant in 2023. Following the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa and PG&E's notice of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) to its customers in California, the District took measures to first rent a 2MW generator system in 2018 for the SGTP ensuring uninterrupted water production while the District completed construction of its permanent 3MW generator system. The District now has operational reliability and resiliency at the SGTP and can continue to keep the treatment plant in operation and allow the North Marin Line Boosters to continue to pump water into the distribution system during any power outage. The original 2015 Report assumed that the BTTP would function as the District's emergency plant due to its ability to deliver water to the southern part of the distribution system via gravity. However, with the generators now installed at the SGTP and with its larger production capacity when compared to BTTP, the District has effectively changed its emergency plant from Bon Tempe to San Geronimo.

The District also experienced a historic drought since the Report was published in 2015. Since then, staff completed the Strategic Water Supply Assessment and recommended several projects to increase the District's water supply resiliency. Some of the proposed projects involve relying more heavily on Kent, Soulajule, and Nicasio Reservoirs, increasing the criticality that San Geronimo be able to function in both planned and unplanned scenarios.

Increased water quality concerns resulting from a changing climate, a desire for increased water supply resiliency, and a need to prioritize treatment plant projects within the larger Capital Improvement Program have led staff to initiate an update to the 2015 Water Treatment Master Plan.

A Request for Proposals was issued for the Water Treatment and Transmission System Master Plan Update in late October 2025, with proposals due January 29, 2026. Over 20 firms received the Request for Proposals and on January 29th, the District received one proposal from Woodard & Curran.

Woodard & Curran’s team brings a proven record of delivering master plans and future projects that are constructable and operable. This work will build upon Woodard & Curran’s deep knowledge of the District’s system and will work well with the recently completed Water Distribution System Master Plan.

District staff recommends that the Board approve a professional services agreement with Woodard & Curran for professional engineering services in support of the Water Treatment and Transmission System Master Plan Update. The professional services agreement will be for an amount not to exceed \$575,969. Funding to pay for this agreement will utilize funds identified for this project in the current two-year capital program.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for this project has been identified and included in the Capital Improvement Budget (FY 26 and FY 27) under the A1A04 budget category.

Budget:

Contract Amount: \$575,969
 Total Budget: \$575,969
 Budget Category: A1A04 – Treatment Plants

Request for Proposals: October 28, 2025
 Proposals Received: January 29, 2026
 Est. Contract Award: March 17, 2026

Task Description	Budget
Task 1: Project Management: This task includes project management activities including day-to-day administration, progress meetings, and technical reviews throughout the duration of the contract.	\$85,560
Task 2: Review Existing Information: This task will review existing background information, perform site visits to the three water treatment plants, conduct staff interviews, and provide a technical memorandum summarizing key findings.	\$62,143
Task 3: Review and Update Planning Criteria: This task will review relevant industry standards, develop Level of Service criteria, facilitate a workshop with District staff, and provide a technical memorandum summarizing updating planning and design criteria.	\$60,955
Task 4: System Evaluation: This task will perform a transmission system and treatment plant evaluation using the updated criteria from Task 3. Specific aspects of the evaluation include plantwide piping and hydraulics, mechanical and electrical upgrades, control systems, structural systems, chemical storage and feed systems, clarifications systems, washwater and solids handling, filtration, and O&M	\$129,715

improvements. This task will also include an evaluation of current projects, a workshop with District staff, and a technical memorandum summarizing findings.	
Task 5: CIP Development: This task will develop project recommendations based on findings from Task 3 and 4, including project linkages, timing and sequencing, and Class V range of magnitude costs. There will be alternative project portfolios, a workshop with District staff, and a technical memorandum summarizing findings.	\$141,915
Task 6: Prepare WTTMP: This task will summarize all prior task work and will prepare an outline, draft, and final WTTMP for District review and acceptance.	\$95,681
Total Authorized Amount	\$575,969

ATTACHMENT(S): None.

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Engineering	 <hr/> Alex Anaya Engineering Director	 <hr/> Ben Horenstein General Manager