



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: City Council
Meeting Date: February 18, 2025
From: AJ Thorne, Assistant Public Works Director
Subject: Task Order Approval: Engineering Evaluation of Sandy's Wastewater Flows on Gresham's Treatment Plant

DECISION TO BE MADE:

Whether to authorize the City Manager to execute a task order with Sandy's wastewater program manager, Stantec, to perform an engineering analysis of the impact of Sandy's wastewater flows on Gresham's treatment plant.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

On [December 2, 2024](#), the Council directed staff to proceed with confirming the feasibility of sending Sandy's wastewater flows to Gresham's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for treatment and discharge. Accordingly, staff began escalating planning conversations with Gresham and working toward this goal through a multi-faceted approach.

As stated in [the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) with Gresham](#), there are three areas of study required to confirm the feasibility of a connection from Sandy to Gresham's WWTP:

1. Engineering Evaluation of Sandy's Wastewater Flows on Gresham's Treatment Plant
2. (If required) Engineering Evaluation of Gresham's Wastewater Collection System
3. Preliminary Engineering Routing Study for Sandy Force Main / Pipeline

This staff report addresses Task 1 above; it is being paired with Task 3 above for Council consideration at this meeting. Task 2 above, if required, would involve determining capacity improvements through Gresham's collection system to accommodate the added flow. The need for this third piece may be brought before Council at a later date if necessary.

Gresham's most recent WWTP master plan is due for an update. While it would be ideal to tie Sandy's flow projections into Gresham's next plan update, Sandy's timeline does not make this possible. Sandy and Gresham have agreed that the best course of action is for Sandy to perform an analysis of Gresham's WWTP and determine the impact of the of adding Sandy's wastewater flow. This approach will allow Sandy to continue building momentum for this solution and proceed without further delay.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

With Sandy's need to move quickly to confirm the viability of the regional treatment alternative, unique situations are likely to arise. In this case, it is not a common practice for one city to perform a study of

another's WWTP. However, in light of Sandy's need to confirm the regional treatment solution in a timely manner, this is the best option. Sandy will not be developing a comprehensive plan for Gresham's WWTP; rather, we will only be determining the impact of Sandy's flow on the current infrastructure in place in Gresham. Gresham will provide current and future numbers for its own flows, as well as those of its partner cities currently connected to Gresham's WWTP. With Sandy's recent work, the characteristics of our city's current and future flows have already been determined.

Assuming the Council approves this task order, Stantec will be able to work quickly on this project. The current schedule anticipates that a final engineering analysis document will be prepared by the end of October of this year. Gresham's staff will be included in reviews of material throughout the process to keep this timeline and ensure both parties agree with the results of this study. This form of analysis will generally be significantly faster than a full master planning effort.

The City Attorney has confirmed that awarding this work to our existing program manager is acceptable for the services in question. The same has already been confirmed with our WIFIA funding sources. The task order is within the scope of our existing contract with Stantec. This procurement approach will move this project along much more quickly and efficiently than alternative approaches.

BUDGET IMPACT:

This work has been quoted by Stantec at \$332,198.20. This project, paired with the task order to perform the preliminary engineering routing study (Task 3 above; \$279,166.51) will increase Stantec's wastewater program budget from a not-to-exceed (NTE) of \$ 3,577,252.80 to a NTE of \$4,188,617.51.

This scope of work was initially budgeted as part of the Sandy River Outfall project and will be paid for with funds from our WIFIA loan originally designated for the Sandy River Outfall, resulting in **no net increase to the overall Sandy Clean Waters budget**. The EPA (the distributors of the WIFIA program funds) has confirmed that the change in project scope, shifting from the Sandy River Outfall to the Regional Treatment Solution, is acceptable. These changes are currently being processed by the EPA.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to sign the Task Order 4 amendment (Amendment 7) with Stantec to provide engineering services to complete a study to determine the ability of the Gresham Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to accept existing and projected future flow from the City of Sandy. The task order is for a not-to-exceed budget of \$332,198.20.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

"I move to authorize the City Manager to execute Task Order 4 with Stantec for engineering services to confirm the capacity of the Gresham Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to accept existing and projected future flow from the City of Sandy, as included in the meeting packet."

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:

- Task Order 4 Scope of work and fee
- [Executed MOU with Gresham](#)