



STAFF REPORT

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: MARCH 17, 2025
FROM: CITY MANAGER DUBOIS
SUBJECT: WASTEWATER ENGINEERING AGREEMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Council adopt the resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreement with Hydrosience Engineers.

BACKGROUND:

For many years, Gary Ghio from WGA has been the City's wastewater engineer. He has served the City well and continues to support us as needed. However, Gary has desired to retire for several years now and is becoming more occupied with other interests.

The City has worked with Hydrosience over the years on several projects including our wastewater master plan. The company and one of its principals, Bill Slenter, is familiar with our wastewater system and challenges, including the details of the ARSA system. Bill and Hydrosience are currently under contract with ARSA to respond to the Orders from the Water Board on crafting our individual and joint water balances. Hydrosience is also already engaged on the Henderson Underdrain project, readying the project for public bidding.

During this work, both Dan and I were impressed with Hydrosience's work. We need a replacement for Gary and believe that retaining Hydrosience is an excellent outcome. Hydrosience is willing to take on this work, and it is difficult to find qualified people in our region that can do this work. Bill Slenter and Steven Whittlesey are working on our projects – Bill will save the City expenses when he can by having more junior people on his team support us when possible. Steven is a young project manager and has also been great to work with.

By becoming Sutter Creek's wastewater engineering firm, Hydrosience is foregoing potentially lucrative work for a progressive design builder, designing our WWTP. Instead, they will be the City's advocate in the progressive design build process, giving us the engineering expertise we need to oversee and manage a large-scale capital project, like the construction of a new wastewater plant.

DISCUSSION:

The agreement is primarily a time and materials contract for ongoing wastewater engineering services. To minimize contract overhead, it also includes provisions for a Federal agreement, in the event we have an emergency which would qualify for FEMA funds. The Federal portion of the agreement is there only for that reason.

BUDGET IMPACT:

We can cover Hydrosience costs within the existing ARSA and City wastewater budgets, using professional services budgeted funds. We are underspending on other categories of the wastewater budget, as we are preparing to issue an RFQ for a new WWTP. We expect to return to the council in the future with budget amendments to shift some additional funds from maintenance to professional services when needed.

ATTACHMENT:

Proposed Resolution, Agreement, and Resumes for Bill Slenter and Steven Whittlesey