



STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: MAY 19, 2025
FROM: TOM DUBOIS, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: WWTP REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

BACKGROUND:

For over the last year, City Staff have been working on plans for the future of the wastewater treatment system for Sutter Creek and our regional partners. It is a multidimensional problem related to financing, technology, regulations, and partnerships with other agencies. Ultimately, wastewater treatment capacity is a long-term investment in the future of Sutter Creek for the next 50 years or more. As has been described in past updates, staff remain convinced that the preferred alternative of discharge into Sutter Creek provides the city with direct control over its future, providing the most flexibility going forward.

Financing a new plant has been a primary concern and after extensive conversations with many leading wastewater construction firms, we believe that the design-build approach using the Energy Services Company (ESCO) procurement path under California Government Code Sections 4217 provides Sutter Creek with the best chance of successfully funding a project. 4217 allows the city to make project decisions in the City's best interest and to finance portions of the project that otherwise need to be funded up front. With limited staff, it also allows the City to have its selected partner manage more of the project.

We are asking Council to approve the RFP, which will enable staff to select a design-build partner to begin detailed planning of the new WWTP plant.

DISCUSSION:

Attached is the RFP that the City will issue once approved by the Council. Several challenges remain which will be addressed during the planning phase. Environmental clearance, FEMA floodplain issues and other site constraints will be worked out during the planning phase. Early engagement with regulatory bodies, particularly our regional water board, will be also required. Finally, the successful bidder must demonstrate expertise in assisting the city with the remaining funding required to complete construction. High-level estimates of ongoing operations costs as well as construction costs will be provided as part of the responses.

Proposals will be scored against the attached scoring matrix.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Once the city selects a design -build partner, we will work to sign a project agreement which will obligate the city to potentially pay for the design if the project does not proceed, or to pay for the construction of the plant, once a guaranteed price comes of the detailed design phase. Council approval will be required before moving forward with the agreement. All costs will come from the Wastewater enterprise fund.

ATTACHMENT:

A. Request for Proposal

B. [Links to other attachments](#)