

# Amador Regional Sanitation Authority

*“Servicing Amador City, Martell, & Sutter Creek”*

**TO: ARSA BOARD**  
**MEETING DATE: JUNE 19, 2025**  
**SUBJECT: HENDERSON UNDERDRAIN PROJECT VIABILITY**

Objective: We want to provide an update to the current reservoir levels, the Henderson underdrain project timing and potential financing.

## **Current Reservoir Levels and Current Disposal Estimates:**

Disposal of ARSA wastewater began to Castle Oaks Golf Course on June 6, 2025. ARSA produces weekly reservoir level reports and as of the report on June 11, 2025, the current reservoir levels are as follows:

Reservoir	Henderson	Preston	Preston Forebay
Volume on June 5, 2025 (acre-feet)	155.8	110.4	18.3
Volume on June 11, 2025 (acre-feet)	154.3	96.6	15.6

During the 5 days of disposal Preston has dropped (or Castle Oaks Gold Course has received) 13.8 acre-feet. This gives us a disposal rate of 2.76 acre-feet per day (approximately 900,000 gallons per day). To ensure that no sludge is drawn to Castle Oaks the volume remaining in Preston must be always maintained above 50-acre feet of storage.

Given that the rate of disposal can be estimated at 2.75 acre-feet per day Henderson should be able to be drained (empty is believed to be storage of 30 acre-feet) at the current rate in 46 days (approximately the end of July). We need an update from Ione to see if the golf course is getting saturated and this rate can be maintained for the next 46 days. Given the constraints of the system and current disposal rates, the Henderson Underdrain project appears to be viable (operationally) this calendar year, though the delay pushes it closer to potential weather impacts.

## **Henderson Underdrain Project Contract and Construction Schedule:**

Since the project can likely be completed operationally, the next consideration is working out the construction contract and construction schedule with the contractor. As stated in the Notice Inviting Bids, bids will remain valid for 90 days after the April 11, 2025 bid opening. Campbell construction was the lowest competent bidder at \$491,000 at the time of the bid opening. Total costs with engineering, construction, road repairs and contingency is \$681,012.

In order to award the contract, all major milestones must be cleared for the project to proceed:

- Environmental documents: A notice of Exemption has been filed for the project in 2022 and are still valid.
- Landowner approval: ARSA has met with the landowner (Finley's) and has been given permission to complete the project.
- Division of Dam Safety (DSOD) approval: The current design has been reviewed and approved by DSOD. Notice of construction will need to be sent to them for oversight prior to construction.
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) approval: Review of the design is underway and initial comments from CDCR do not appear to be a significant issue but this is critical path to get all approvals in place.

Only CDCR approval remains. They have been cooperative and we are pushing them to get this item completed.

The Notice of Award must be sent to Campbell construction by July 1, 2025, and the contract be executed by July 10, 2025. Material would then be obtained and construction staged – we are getting estimates on the time needed. Campbell construction has informed the City that once started, the project can be completed within one month. The construction

window has a deadline of October 1, 2025, which is the date that the City believes would be reasonable to complete construction prior to rain beginning to fall. While it appears viable if everything goes well, the delay in disposal has increased the risk of project completion.

### **Financial:**

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The City of Sutter Creek is working with California Consulting, one of the leading grant writing companies in California. We have gotten varying indications from them on the likelihood of getting a grant to perform the dam repair. Because this is a public safety issue, it involves recycled water and we are qualified as a disadvantaged community, the initial response was that we were likely to get a grant for the entire amount. However, all funds for this fiscal year are allocated. We thought our application was in place for next year's funds but on talking to DWSRF on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, we discovered that the application was not complete. We are attempting to get a complete picture in time for discussion at the ARSA meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>, with as good an indication as feasible of the likelihood of receiving funding assistance. We will update the board at the meeting.

Financially, it would be quite a swing from paying \$681,000 out of pocket to receiving a grant for \$681,000 – worth \$1.2M to ARSA. While it appears the Castle Oaks disposal delay does not prevent us from completing the project this year, we would like the board to weigh in on the financial trade-off.

Because we can do disposal, the reservoir should be empty by fall this year. If we decided to go for the grant and we get an average year or dryer in terms of rainfall, we would be able to do the construction next year with a potential grant. We would need to rebid the project, and the bid next year could be higher. There is no guarantee that we will win the grant, but it does appear our application would score highly. If the winter was a wet year, we may be unable to empty the reservoir next year. Because of the delay, we could notify the department of dam safety that because of the delay, we are unsure of completion before fall weather and are postponing one year.

So we are asking the board to weigh in on balancing the risks of weather, construction costs, and financing against proceeding out of pocket this year.

### **Conclusions / Next Steps**

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Based on the current levels in the ARSA system, and the disposal rate to Castle Oaks Gold Course, the City believes we can likely complete the Henderson Underdrain Project this year. Based on Board feedback, we will either proceed with the contract after securing CDCR approval or postpone and focus on the grant application.