



City of Biggs

Agenda Item for the
Next regular City Council Meeting
May 13, 2014 at 6:30pm

To: Honorable Mayor
And Members of the City Council

Date: May 6, 2014

From: Brian Martin, PE – City Engineer

Subject: Monthly Activity Report

Funding for WWTP Project

SRF Phase 1: The City received a fully executed Installment Sale Agreement (SA) with the California Water Resources Control Board State Revolving Fund (SRF) in the amount of \$2,662,000. We are in the process of preparing a request to the SRF for a funding reimbursement. We anticipate sending in the first reimbursement request soon.

USDA Phase 2: The final stamped and signed Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was submitted to the USDA on April 7, 2014. The Preliminary Engineering Report was officially approved by the USDA on April 15, 2014. We are still working with Scott Friend to get the NEPA document completed.

SRF Phase 2: We have been working with the State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Division to get our Petition for Change approval. We are also working with Scott Friend to complete the environmental questionnaire needed for the application.

Regional Board Issues

Requirements of Time Schedule Order (TSO): On April 14, 2014 we submitted the Method of Compliance and Compliance Schedule Work Plan to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Unless we receive additional requests from the RWQCB we are now up to date on the required submittals for the TSO.

Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Compliance Project: The City has been assessed fines in the amount of \$462,000 from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for effluent violations between Jan 2009 (new NPDES permit issued) to September 2012. We have requested to construct a compliance project in lieu of paying the fees. Subsequently, the Regional Board requested some information about the proposed project. The City provided that information in November. We still have not heard from the RWQCB on this issue.

2013 Final Ammonia Criteria for Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life: On April 3, 2014 the City received a letter from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) which had an Order for Information. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recently published final recommended water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life from the toxic effects of ammonia in fresh water. The new criteria are more stringent for areas in the valley and supersede the 1999 ammonia criteria. On April 23, 2014, I attended a workshop on the recommended ammonia criteria. The workshop covered the ammonia criteria, mussel studies and compliance options. Essentially, if an agency discharges to water ways it is required to do additional ammonia testing and mussel studies to confirm that mussels are either present or not in the receiving waters. At the end of the workshop there was a time for questions. I asked if we are working on a project to eliminate discharge are the studies still required. The Regional Water Quality Control Board representative, Adam Laputz, stated that the answer was no. Since that workshop I have spoken with Stacey Gotham our CVRWQCB staff person. She is in agreement that our method of compliance is to go to land disposal and eliminate future discharges. Consequently, the City should not have to do ammonia monitoring and mussel studies. We will still need to send a letter to the CVRWQCB of our intentions prior to the July 15, 2014 deadline.

General Issues

Funding Opportunities: There are some potential grant funding opportunities that have been identified for various City Projects. A brief summary of the grants that we are currently pursuing are as follows:

1. We are in the process of submitting an application for grant funding to Caltrans through the Active Transportation Program for a Safe Route to School Project. This program was created by Senate Bill 99 and Assembly Bill 101.
2. We are still in the process of submitting a pre-application for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program for a water meter project to complete the metering of the City's water system.