

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: Wastewater Regionalization, Placer and Nevada Counties

BOARD ACTION: *Informational Item*

BACKGROUND: Placer County owns and operates four wastewater collection and treatment systems; Sewer Maintenance District (SMD) No. 1 (serving the unincorporated areas around Auburn, SMD-3 (serving Granite Bay), Sheridan and Applegate. In addition, there are separate wastewater collection and treatment systems in the Placer County cities of Lincoln and Auburn, the community of Newcastle, and the City of Roseville owns and operates two wastewater systems. In 1997, Placer County, faced with future new surface water waste discharge requirements and explosive residential growth, commissioned an evaluation of wastewater treatment alternatives. The proposed developments in the county are expected to expand wastewater demand to over 150,000 equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) by 2015, a total growth of 250%. In March 1998, Placer County's *Evaluation of Regional Wastewater Treatment Options for Placer County* recommended that the smaller wastewater treatment systems be abandoned in favor of regional wastewater treatment plants. The principal regional plant would be in the City of Lincoln, with some flows being diverted to Roseville.

In 2004, the City of Lincoln dedicated a new wastewater treatment plant. The new facility is designed to provide tertiary treatment and to fully comply with California Toxics Rule (CTR) water quality standards. The City proposes extensive reclamation uses of the treated wastewater. The City of Lincoln took a proactive role in wastewater regionalization by making the layout of the treatment plant expandable, purchasing excess land for expansion, and by greatly over-sizing the influent sewer line that was constructed to the City limits.

A Placer Nevada Wastewater Authority (Joint Powers Authority or JPA) was organized in 1998 and expanded to include Nevada County in 2001. The member agencies are Nevada and Placer Counties, City of Auburn, Newcastle Sanitary District, South Placer Municipal Utility District and the City of Lincoln. The JPA has been working to obtain funding for planning, design and environmental review of the regional system.

The first phase of the regionalization effort, construction of the Placer County Regional Wastewater Pipeline along State Route 193, is in progress. This work will result in a completed pipeline from the intersection of SR 193 and Sierra College Boulevard to the Lincoln Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility.

According to an April 2006 status report by the JPA, two grant-funded payments totaling \$577,000 had been received from the U.S. EPA. Pipeline route mapping, engineering planning, and environmental clearance efforts were reported to be underway for the pipeline. The environmental document for the entire pipeline route was to be completed in early 2007. The total U.S. EPA grant is for \$5.3 million. This grant will cover the pipeline studies and preliminary design and the preliminary studies for expanding the Lincoln plant to accommodate regional flows. Separate environmental documents are being prepared for the three stand-alone projects within the Regional Pipeline System: Newcastle, Applegate and Placer County SMD No. 3. These stand-alone environmental studies will allow for early construction of each of these projects.

Members of the JPA will provide the Regional Water Board with a status report on the Placer Nevada Regionalization effort.

ISSUES:

In recent years, NPDES permits for several of the affected wastewater treatment facilities have been renewed by the Regional Water Board (Placer County SMD No. 1 and City of Auburn). Others are to be considered by the Regional Water Board shortly (Placer County SMD No. 3). Timing of the regionalization effort relative to treatment plant upgrades necessary to comply with new discharge requirements is a factor for these facilities. In general, permit renewals have included compliance schedules to allow time for these facilities to complete upgrades or connect to the regional system. However, in some cases it is not clear that the regionalization effort will be far enough along to assure that the facility will be able to comply with the time schedule.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

25 January 2007
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