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## TITLE

Water Reclamation Facility Sludge Hauling and Biosolids Project Budget Amendment

## RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution amending the FY2025-26 Capital Budget and increasing the FY2025-26 Project Budget from \$620,000 to \$1,220,000 and authorizing the Public Works Director to execute contract change orders in an aggregate amount not to exceed the Project Budget, in conjunction with the Sludge Removal and Hauling Project (WW26-0400).

## CONTACT

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Norman Woods, Assistant Public Works Director, Utilities and Environmental Services

## BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

### Background

The Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), commissioned in 2002, includes two sludge ponds: one lined with clay and the other with a Hypalon synthetic liner. From its inception through 2006, the claylined pond served as the primary site for sludge disposal. Since that time, it has been repurposed for temporary wet weather storage and as a backup during sludge transfer and dewatering operations when the primary pond is unavailable.

Currently, the WRF generates approximately one dry ton of solids per day, which are deposited into the Hypalon-lined pond (Sludge Pond One). By 2011, this pond had reached its capacity, prompting the facility's first sludge removal project. In the years following, effective digestion and dewatering allowed for biosolids removal on a biennial basis. Subsequent upgrades—including the installation of a screw press in 2015 and implementation of the Blue Frog sludge reduction system in 2018—have significantly improved sludge management efficiency and helped maintain stable pond levels since 2013.

A recent sludge depth survey indicated that Sludge Pond One contains approximately eleven feet of accumulated solids, out of a total operational capacity of fifteen feet. To preserve critical treatment capacity and maintain readiness for wet weather events, the removal of accumulated biosolids is necessary.

In addition to operational needs, the WRF must also remain in compliance with Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), enacted in 2016, which mandates the reduction of organic waste disposed of in landfills. Under SB 1383, the City must demonstrate "verifiable available capacity" to process and recycle organic waste, including biosolids generated at the WRF. Accordingly, staff have submitted an implementation plan to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) outlining compliance measures for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2034.

### Analysis

On September 15, 2025, City Council awarded a contract to Synagro in the amount of \$610,987 and authorized the Public Works Director to sign contract change orders up to the amount of \$620,000 for the Sludge Removal and Hauling Project (WW26-0400).

The project was scheduled to begin and be completed in the fall 2026 with a second round of sludge removal to begin in FY2026-27. However, early rainfall delayed the project until late this spring. The contractor is currently mobilized and is able to save the City approximately \$57,000, combined with an estimated \$109,987 reduction in anticipated contractor demobilization and remobilization costs by continuing the project via a change order in the current fiscal year.

This approach maximizes operational efficiency, reduces future project costs, and further supports the long-term maintenance and treatment capacity needs of the Water Reclamation Facility. This project is exclusively for sludge hauling and disposal services associated with the maintenance of the sludge removal ponds and does not include any alterations, improvements, or upgrades to the existing facility infrastructure.

The sludge removal contract is covered by the City's Purchasing Policy and per Government Code Section 54202, which allows for a contract change order to proceed under the existing vendor selection given the lowest unit price selection. Therefore, the recommended action is to increase the project budget in FY 2025-26 and authorize the Public Works Director to execute change orders up to the new project budget.

## **COUNCIL PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

Infrastructure: "Develop and maintain infrastructure resources to support sustainable growth."

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The FY2025-26 Capital Budget provided for a project budget for the Sludge Removal and Hauling Project (WW26-0400) in the amount of \$620,000 from Fund 540, Wastewater Operations. The proposed FY2026-27 Capital Budget currently provides funding for the Sludge Removal and Hauling Project (WW26-400) through Fund 540 in the amount of \$600,000 for a total project budget of \$1,220,000.

By increasing the project budget and proceeding with a contract change order in FY2025-26, the City will see substantial project savings at minimum of \$57,000 by proceeding with the work now versus

waiting in the next fiscal year.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

15378(b) - The action is not a "Project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it does not qualify as a "Project" under Public Resources Code Sections 21065 and 21080 and in Section 15378(b) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. This repair work is also exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act as repair work for existing facilities under Section 15301 of the California Code of Regulations.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Level 2: Targeted Communication

Public outreach for truck hauling through commercial areas while the Green Island Road rehabilitation project is underway. Coordination with multiple contractors and city project managers to ensure hauling routes are available.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Resolution: Sludge Hauling Budget Amendment](#)
2. [Synagro Sludge Removal and Hauling Proposal 2026](#)
3. [Synagro Sludge Removal and Hauling Proposal 2025](#)