



TITLE

Contract Award for the Synagro Water Reclamation Facility Sludge Hauling and Biosolids Project (WW-26-0400)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution: 1) amending the FY2025-26 Capital Budget and increasing the FY2025-26 Project Budget from \$500,000 to \$620,000; 2) Awarding a construction contract to Synagro in the amount of \$610,987, and 3) 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

Erica Ahmann Smithies, P.E., Public Works Director

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

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

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 clay-lined 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 indicates that Sludge Pond One now 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 now 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.

To support ongoing operational readiness and regulatory compliance, staff recommend proceeding with the removal of approximately 300 dry tons of biosolids from Sludge Pond One. In support of this effort, the City solicited competitive bids for the Sludge Removal and Hauling Project (WW26-0400) on July 16, 2025. On August 8, 2025, the following bids were received:

| Bidder | Total Bid Amount |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Golden Gate Trans, Inc. | \$330.00* |
| Synagro | \$610,987.00 |
| MidCal Dredging, Inc. | \$727,450.00 |

*The low bid was determined to be a non-responsive bid and the bidder was notified

The bid submitted by Synagro, in the amount of \$610,987, was the apparent low responsive and responsible bid. Staff have reviewed Synagro’s bid submittal and verified the firm’s qualifications, including possession of a valid Class A Contractor’s License, active DIR registration, and satisfactory references. The proposed pricing is consistent with market rates and reflects the reasonable and customary costs for the scope of work.

Therefore, staff recommend that the City Council award the construction contract for the Sludge Removal and Hauling Project (WW26-0400) to Synagro in the amount of \$610,987 for FY2025-26.

COUNCIL PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

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

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY2025-26 Capital Budget currently provides for a Project Budget for the Sludge Removal and Hauling Project (WW26-0400) in the amount of \$500,000. The lowest bid was \$610,987, therefore additional funds are required to complete the Project. Staff is recommending an increase to Fund 540 from \$500,000 to \$620,000 to accommodate a minimal contingency.

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.

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. Possible comms plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution - WRF SLUDGE Removal and Hauling 2025
2. Notice - Lack of Verifiable Processing Capacity - American Canyon
3. Notice of Need to Prepare and Submit Implementation Schedule (14 CCR Sections 18992.1(d) and 18992.2 (c))
4. Biosolids Capacity Implementation Plan
Notice of Non-responsive Bid