



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Arturo Vela, Acting City Manager

PREPARED BY: Shah Nawaz, Deputy Water/Wastewater Director
Art Vela, Acting City Manager

MEETING DATE: August 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2025-118, Approving Amendment No.1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Kimley Horn in the Amount of \$112,928.00 for Additional Environmental Services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2025-118.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Banning Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), also known as the Water Reclamation Facility, is responsible for the collection, treatment, and disposal of municipal sewage. The City has determined that the WWTP requires both capacity and treatment process improvements to accommodate community growth, produce recycled water to strengthen the City's water supply portfolio, and comply with upcoming wastewater effluent discharge quality permit requirements.

To advance the project, the City must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Because the project may also receive federal funding, staff recommends preparing an environmental clearance document that satisfies both State requirements under CEQA and Federal requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

On February 22, 2024, staff issued a Request for Proposals to firms on the City's approved On-Call Environmental and Engineering Consultant Services list. One proposal was received from Kimley-Horn. Following evaluation, staff recommended, and the City Council approved via Resolution 2024-70 on May 14, 2024, the award of a Professional Services Agreement to Kimley-Horn in the amount of \$192,892.

Subsequently, on February 25, 2025, the City Council approved Resolution 2025-30, awarding a Progressive Design-Build Agreement to AECOM/W.M. Lyles, A Joint Venture, for Phase I (design) of the WWTP and Recycled Water Upgrades. To produce Title 22 compliant tertiary-treated recycled water for landscape and irrigation use within the City, the treated wastewater effluent must undergo an additional process called Reverse Osmosis (RO) to reduce total dissolved solids (TDS, as in salts and nutrients) concentrations. This process generates a by-product known as RO reject (brine), a highly concentrated salt solution, which must be further dried and disposed of at designated waste facilities.

Initially, the City anticipated discharging brine to the neighboring City of Beaumont's wastewater collection system, which conveys brine to the Inland Empire Brine Line under the jurisdiction of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), ultimately discharging to the Pacific Ocean. However, because the City of Banning is primarily within the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin

RWQCB, the Santa Ana RWQCB did not approve the proposed interconnection and discharge.

As a result, the City must construct approximately 20 acres of lined brine drying ponds. The existing CEQA professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn did not include environmental clearance for these brine drying ponds, making an amendment to the current scope necessary.

JUSTIFICATION:

The planned upgrades at the WWTP are classified as a “Project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and must comply with all applicable CEQA requirements. In addition, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will position the City to receive potential federal funding.

Kimley-Horn has submitted a proposal (Amendment No. 1) in response to the City's request for additional CEQA/NEPA services to address the newly identified requirement for approximately 20 acres of brine drying ponds. The proposed amendment, in the amount of \$112,928, was evaluated by staff and determined to be acceptable, with the fee consistent with projects of similar scope and complexity.

Kimley-Horn is a highly reputable firm, currently under contract to provide CEQA/NEPA services for the remainder of the WWTP upgrades, and has the necessary expertise and resources to complete the additional scope of work in a timely and thorough manner.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Amendment No. 1 proposal in the amount of \$112,928 to the existing Professional Services Agreement will be funded by Account No. 681-8000-454.90-78.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not approve Resolution 2025- 118. The WWTP upgrade and improvement project will not be able to move forward without compliance with CEQA and NEPA.

BUDGETED?:

Yes

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

Yes

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution No. 2025-118.docx](#)
2. [Resolution No. 2025-030 \(For Reference Purposes Only\).pdf](#)
3. [Amend No.1.pdf](#)