



Agenda Item: 14.H  
Date of Meeting: July 22, 2024  
Department: Public Works

## STAFF REPORT

To: City Council  
From: Nora Gamino  
Subject: **Pond 1 Sludge Removal Purchase Order**  
Prepared On: July 16, 2024  
Attachments: Bishop Sludge Report  
Bishop Sludge Removal Proposal 2024- Pond #1

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### Background/History:

In 2023, the ponds at the wastewater treatment plant were evaluated for sludge buildup.

Sludge is a byproduct of wastewater treatment and over time it builds up in the ponds. The sludge takes up space in the ponds reducing their capacity and must be removed, either mechanically or biochemically. Mechanical removal has major and costly impacts to the wastewater operation as each pond would need to be dredged, the removed materials allowed to dry, and then hauled to an approved hazardous material landfill. Biochemical treatment of sludge has been proven to reduce sludge in operating ponds and is estimated to cost one-tenth of the cost of mechanical removal. While it does not completely remove all sludge, or other unwanted material, it serves as a cost-effective way to manage pond capacity and extend the time between mechanical sludge removal efforts.

### Analysis/Discussion:

The water depth and sludge thickness were measured throughout ponds 1, 2, 3, and 4. All four ponds need some level of sludge removal. Pond 1 is the primary pond and is an aerated partial mix lagoon with baffle curtains while ponds 2, 3, and 4 are polishing ponds. Because Pond 1 is the only pond with aeration, and it is critical to the treatment process, it has been identified as the highest priority to receive sludge removal treatments.

Environmental Techniques is the only company that will provide these types of biochemical treatments in our area. They also perform similar work for the Eastern Sierra Community Services District. The cost for treatment of Pond 1, which they estimate will remove approximately 54% of the sludge through accelerated biological activity, is \$27,775 (\$18,675 for materials and \$9,100 for labor). Because they are the only provider of these treatments and bio stimulant products in our area, this will be a sole source purchase.

### Economic Impacts:

None.

Budget Impacts:

This item is included in the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget within the Sewer Fund, expense account 002-051-52015, Professional Services.

Legal Review:

None

Recommended Action:

Council consideration to approve the City Administrator to sign the purchase order for sludge removal by Environmental Techniques in Pond #1 in the amount of \$27,775.

Approved By: Ethan Aukee 7/17/2024

Approved By: Deston Dishion 7/18/2024

Approved By:

Approved By: