



CITY OF WHEATLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

January 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Formation of and Appointments to Wastewater Treatment Alternatives Ad-Hoc Committee

PREPARED BY: Dane H. Schilling – City Engineer

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Council direct the formation of the Wastewater Alternatives Ad-Hoc Committee and appoint two Councilmembers to collaborate with Staff in exploring and developing wastewater treatment opportunities, and negotiating with Olivehurst Public Utilities District (OPUD) and Linda County Water District (LCWD) on the City's behalf.

Background/Discussion

The City's existing wastewater treatment plant was constructed in the 1960's and was designed to accommodate a population of approximately 8,000 to 10,000 residents. The plant's age, location and increasing regulatory requirements will make operating the plant and/or expanding the plant at its current location difficult and expensive. Most of the remaining capacity of the plant is committed to developers who have paid in advance to reserve sewer treatment capacity for their developments. Other developers interested in Wheatland have been highly discouraged by lack of available wastewater capacity, and the prospect of spending significant money and time to build more capacity in the City when other jurisdictions can provide immediate capacity. The lack of available wastewater capacity is the City's greatest impediment to growth as wastewater flows are projected to eventually increase to 3.82 MGD at buildout of the General Plan.

On December 10, 2019, City staff presented a report on wastewater treatment alternatives and gave a brief oral presentation of the report. The report entitled *City of Wheatland Wastewater Treatment Alternatives Analysis*, November 2019 considered five alternative approaches to addressing the lack of wastewater treatment capacity, serving existing customers, and the relative capital costs and sewer rates associated with the two most feasible alternatives.

At the conclusion of the December 10, 2019 meeting, Council directed staff to bring the item back to Council to form an Ad-Hoc committee and develop a plan to proceed in pursuing opportunities with Olivehurst Public Utilities District (OPUD) and Linda County Water District (LCWD) as recommended in the report.

The mission of the Ad-Hoc Committee is to work toward securing the best possible long-term solution to the City's future wastewater treatment needs by:

- Further exploring and developing the two alternatives recommended in the *City of Wheatland Wastewater Treatment Alternatives Analysis* report.
- Consider timing of each alternative to accommodate growth.
- Consider maximum future capacity available.
- Compare connection fees and rates of each provider.
- Perform a financial comparison of the OPUD and LCWD options.
- Consider implications to current and future rate payers.
- Identify a partner in either OPUD or LCWD for treatment of the City's wastewater.
- Bring its recommendation to the full Council for review and action.

The proposed Ad-Hoc Committee would be comprised of two Councilmembers, the City Manager and the City Engineer.

Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact with this item. However, a future budget amendment will be needed to cover anticipated consultant costs that will be brought forth in a future action. The Sewer Collection Impact Fund (which exists to fund the expansion of wastewater facilities) currently has a cash balance of \$4,327,000.

Attachments

None