



Ironhouse Sanitary District BOARD OF DIRECTORS *STAFF REPORT*

DATE: April 7, 2020

TO: Members of the Board of Directors

FROM: Tyson Zimmerman, Assistant General Manager

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CAROLLO ENGINEERS TO PREPARE A BIOSOLIDS MASTER PLAN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Ironhouse Sanitary District currently does not have a comprehensive plan for the management of biosolids. A Biosolids Master Plan will provide the District with a roadmap to effectively manage biosolids by analyzing the needs and recommending solutions to meet those needs. Staff has requested proposals from professional engineering firms to prepare a Biosolids Master Plan.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:

AUTHORIZE the General Manager to enter into a contract with Carollo Engineers (Carollo) to prepare a Biosolids Master Plan in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

COST OR FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

Through unrestricted Capital Expenditure Reserves and Net Cash, the District has adequate funds for this Capital Improvement Project.

Staff is planning to include this expense in the Operating and Maintenance budget for FY 20/21. Initial project payments will likely be made at the end of FY 19/20; however, the majority of payments will be made in FY 20/21.

Staff budgeted \$25,000 for Studies and Assessments in FY 19/20. As of February 29, 2020, this budget line item has not been used. Therefore, staff plan to use these funds for the Biosolids Master Plan in the current fiscal year.

The District is currently under contract with Synagro for biosolids management. Synagro recently increased the rate for biosolids management by 64% (from \$22.15 per ton to \$36.28 per ton). This new rate is proposed to begin March 2020.

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SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION:

If authorized by the Board, a Professional Services Agreement will be executed between the District and Carollo. The entire project will be complete within one (1) calendar year of the Notice to Proceed. If the project spans the entire duration it would be complete in February of 2021.

ALTERNATIVES/CONSIDERATIONS:

Reject All Bids – This alternative is not recommended since the District does not have sufficient in-house staff to prepare a biosolids master plan.

DISCUSSION:

Approximately 500 dry tons of biosolids are produced annually at the District's Water Recycling Facility (WRF). The dewatered cake is discharged into hauling trucks for offsite transport. During wet weather periods, dewatered biosolids are hauled to a commercial land application facility. During dry weather periods, dewatered biosolids are hauled to District's Land Application Area (LAA) on Jersey Island. Currently, the District is complying with the Class B biosolids requirements contained in 40 CFR Part 503.

The Biosolids Master Plan (BMP) will be a guiding document that will address a number of challenges the District faces with biosolids management. One of the issues faced by the District is the lack of biosolids storage. Because the production of biosolids is a continual process, it must be managed as soon as it is produced. Storage would allow the District to retain biosolids during wet weather.

Another challenge that will be addressed in the BMP is the restoration of plant capacity. Currently, one of the four treatment basins is used for the treatment of waste activated sludge. This process maintains the biological balance of organisms in the treatment process. The BMP will identify alternative strategies for treatment of the waste activated sludge while returning the treatment basins to their originally designed purpose.

The main purpose of the BMP is to successfully manage all District produced biosolids in the most cost effective manner. However, the BMP will also explore the feasibility of scaling operations to include other regional partners.

The project was advertised on the District website on November 19, 2019. Staff also emailed a link for the project bid on the District website to ten (10) engineering firms. Four firms indicated an interest in providing a proposal. On December 20, 2019, the District received two (2) proposals.

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After careful review of the proposals, staff determined that the District would be best served by Carollo. Carollo has provided BMPs for large and small agencies throughout the Bay Area and central region of California. Carollo plans to staff this project with of nine (9) professionals who have a broad array of expertise including Greg Kester who is the Director of Renewable Resources for CASA. Through the proposal, Carollo has communicated a strong understanding of the District's challenges and concerns. They have proposed a thoughtful, comprehensive approach to developing a BMP for the District.