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Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2025 2:16 PM

To: Barbara Buikema <Buikema@cawd.org>

Subject: S. Cole's Questions and Comments on BOD 3/2/'25 Packet

Appearances, Orders of Business & Announcements:

Item No. 3, p. 5: Introduction of Lab Personnel:

-Would like to know, at the time of the introduction of the new Lab personnel, what the division of work will be among the three analysts.

Per Treanor

The lab is staffed 7 days a week so the 3 analysts schedules are split to accommodate. The analysts share the workload associated with running daily tests. There are Primary and Secondary analysts for each test. Each analyst is involved in doing data entry, collecting permit samples, and prepping bottles for sending to contract labs on a daily basis. The analysts are also doing foundational accreditation tasks such as completing standard methods training records, updating written procedures, updating bench sheets, and improving quality control systems and procedures.

-Also, whether the fully staffed Lab means that the new Supervisor will not have to forego supervisory duties in order to be in the Lab running tests, etc., if the analysts are out on vacation or sick leave.

Per Treanor

With the additional lab analyst on board, the new Lab Manager should not be bogged down by daily routine sampling tasks and can therefore be focused on management goals including obtaining Environmental Lab Accreditation, regulatory reporting, and assisting in staff's ongoing professional development.

Resolutions:

Item No. 19, Reso. #2025-11, pp. 114-159: WWTP Perimeter Improvements:

-p. 133 is titled "CAWD Gas and Water Service Pipeline. . ." Does the title need to be revised to eliminate mention of the Gas and Service Pipeline since the agenda item is about perimeter improvements?

Per Bandy

Regarding Denise Duffy & Associates' fee table for their proposed subcontractor services for the Perimeter Improvements Project: the title of their proposal is correct ("Tree Removal and Fence Replacement Project"), but the title of their fee table is incorrect. In recent months I've been considering how best to approach the different phases of work for these site improvements, and at one point we discussed doing all of this work under a single design contract, but due to both the potential complications for the gas and water main relocations and the critical need for improved security (Perimeter Improvements) and more staff offices (Site Improvements), I thought it would be best to sequence the projects as I described in my recent BOD presentation. It looks like DD&A accidentally left the title from when we were considering completing all this work at once. Although the fee table title is incorrect, the scope as shown in their proposal is correct.

Communications:

Item No. 24, GM's Report: A., p. 211, *et seq.*: Central Coast Regional Water Board Violation Letter: At pages 228-229, mention is made of sunlight encouraging algae growth in the wet well. Is it possible to avoid pump bypass of effluent wet well to prevent such algae growth and consequent causes of violations during the summer and early Fall (sunny) months, possibly by scheduling projects, whether capital or repairs during winter months?

Per Waggoner

This bypass was performed during the Phase 2 project "Wastewater Treatment Plant Electrical/Mechanical Rehabilitation and Sludge Holding Tank Replacement Project". The reason for the bypass was that the effluent pump station electrical panels, equipment, and piping /valves needed to be replaced all at once because there is only one outfall pipe.

Under normal repair and maintenance, a total bypass of the effluent pumping system would not be required, and the normal plant operation of constant flow would not allow an algae buildup in that smaller wet well.

The summer months of July and August were chosen as that is when the lowest water flows of one Million Gallons per Day out to the ocean would be at the time. Verses if done during the winter months with rainfall and infiltration the outfall flows could go as high as five Million Gallons per Day. Which would have cost the Contractor and District extra money to rent large enough pumps, generator, and control panels to manage the wintertime flows.

Other Items Before the Board:

Item No. 28, p. 246 *et seq.*, Preliminary Rate Model: At page 249, what would be the ending balance under Option 2?

Option # 1 shows a decrease of \$6.7M from reserves resulting in ending cash of \$

Per Buikema

Couple of problems here

- 1. On page 247 “Revenue” ends with an “e” not a “t”**
- 2. The difference between the two options is relatively small: \$219,838**
- 3. Option 1 ending cash would be \$50,990,357; it is not necessary to deduct the reserve appropriation**
- 4. Option 2 ending cash would be \$51,282,196**

Item No. 29, p. 250 *et seq.*, Monterey County Treasurer's Report: The County's return in the fourth quarter of 2024 was 4.3 percent. CNBC reported the S & P 500 return for the same period was 1.9 percent. (*Comment.*)

Per Buikema

The S & P 500 is a stock market index tracking the stock performance of 500 of the largest companies listed on the stock exchanges in the U.S. You are correct that the

closing 2024 rate was 1.9%. I would comment that the County portfolio is made up of a basket of diversified instruments. For example, as of 12-31-24 the portfolio had 46% invested in US Treasuries that are not listed on the S&P.

You may find the detail of the County investments on their report located <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/departments-i-z/treasurer-tax-collector/treasury>

If the Board desires, we can include a full copy of the report on future reports.

Going forward the opinion columns and forecasters feel there will be continued hesitancy in the stock markets until there is more clarity on Trump administration policies. There is some suggestion that more muted gains are likely in 2025.