

# Water Reclamation Facility Public Forum

*Special City Council Meeting  
Question and Answer Facilitated by the League  
of Women Voters  
April 25, 2018*



# Agenda



- Presentation
  - History
  - Project Goals
  - Project Description
  - Funding
  - Permitting
  - Next Steps
  - Prop 218
  - Regional Board Update
- Question and Answer



# Existing WWTP

- 64 years old
- Not designed to meet today's secondary treatment requirements
- Expired 301(h) waiver from federal and state standards
- Discharge of 1 MGD of water into ocean
- Susceptible to coastal hazards



## History (1954 – 2006) – 301(h) Waiver

- **1954:** Existing WWTP is built
- **1976:** Facility upgrades
- **1984:** Facility upgrades
- **Jan 2003:** Regional Board sends 301(h) letter to MBCSD initiating upgrade
- **June 2003:** MBCSD submits application to Regional Board to renew 301(h) modified discharge permit



## History (2006 – 2011) – Existing Site

- **2006:** Process to replace existing WWTP begins
- **April 2006:** MBCSD agrees to shorten time schedule for upgrade project from 9.5 years to 8 years
- **2007 – 2010:** Focus on replacing the existing WWTP on the current site
- **Dec 2010:** EIR triggers letter from Coastal Commission staff

## History (2011 – 2015) – Alternative Sites

- **2011-12:** Studies consider alternative sites; EIR prepared for upgrade at current site
- **Jan 2013:** Coastal denies permit to rebuild at current site
- **Dec 2013:** Site Options Report evaluates 17 sites
- **May – Dec 2014:** Report recommends Morro Valley; City considers regional facility at CMC

## History (2015 – 2016) – Post CSD

- **April 2015:** Cayucos decides to pursue separate project
- **Feb 2016:** Additional site analysis sparked by neighborhood concerns in Morro Valley
- **May 2016:** South Bay Boulevard site determined to be most achievable in 5-year timeframe
- **June 2016:** City Council selects South Bay Boulevard site for detailed studies, site planning (Facility Master Plan), and EIR analysis



# History (2016 – Present) – Project Definition



- **November 2016:** Draft Facility Master Plan completed
- **March 2017:** Draft Master Water Reclamation Plan completed (partially grant funded)
- **April 2017:** Draft Rate Study Update presented

# Historical Themes and Project Drivers



- Regulatory factors
- Permitting challenges
- Separate Cayucos project
- Drought
- Cost impacts
- Citizen input

# Project Goals

- All aspects of the WRF project shall be completed ensuring economic value with a special emphasis on **minimizing rate payer and City expense**
- **Communicate WRF project progress** including general project status, milestones, and budget/cost information to our community members regularly
- Produce **tertiary, disinfected wastewater** in accordance with Title 22 requirements for unrestricted urban irrigation



## Project Goals (cont.)

- Design to produce reclaimed wastewater to **augment the City's water supply**, by either direct or indirect means, as described in a master water reclamation plan and to maximize funding opportunities
- Include features in the WRF project that maximize the City's opportunities to **secure funding** and maximize efficiencies
- Design to minimize the impacts from **contaminants of emerging concern** in the future
- Ensure compatibility with **neighboring land uses**

# New Water Reclamation Facility

- Draft Facility Master Plan completed Dec 2016
- Full tertiary treatment with advanced treatment for potable reuse
- Outside area of coastal hazards
- Minimal aesthetic impacts



# Reclamation Overview

- Master Reclamation Plan evaluates multiple reuse options
- Potable reuse ranks highest
- Potential to offset ~80% of City's current water demand
- Initial hydrogeology studies completed
- Additional study required to assess seawater intrusion and nitrogen impacts





# Project Components

- WRF Package
  - Demolition of existing WWTP
  - New WRF
- Conveyance
  - Raw wastewater pump station
  - Raw wastewater pipeline
  - Brine pipeline to outfall
- Recycled Water Offsite
  - Pipelines to injection wells
  - Injection wells



## Recent Activities

- Public Works Peer Review
- South Bay Boulevard site confirmed
- Project goals updated
- Conveyance design contract awarded to Waterworks Engineers
- WRF Design-Build team procurement
- Draft EIR
- City Council hires Carollo Engineers as Program Manager

## Next Steps

- Conveyance design (ongoing)
- Grant and loan pursuit (ongoing)
- Initiate additional groundwater studies for potable reuse
- Review and evaluate WRF proposals
- Negotiate and award contract to WRF Design-Build team
- Certify Final EIR



# Next Steps

- Update Rate Study
  - Blue Ribbon Commission Review
  - Staff Review
  - Advisory Body Review
  - City Council Reviews



# Prop 218 Discussion





# Regional Board Update



# Questions and Discussion