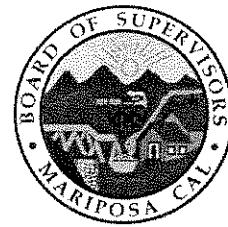


# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Public Works • (209) 966-5356



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-302**

MEETING: July 16, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

**MINUTE ORDER ATTACHED**

FROM: Peter Rei, Public Works Director

RE: Approve Plans and Specs for Yosemite West Maint. Dist. Wastewater Facility Improvements 2013

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve Plans and Specifications and Authorize Public Works to Solicit Bids for Wastewater Facility Improvements that consist of the installation of a new influent flow meter, self-cleaning strainer for the surface drip irrigation system, a prefabricated enclosure for the strainer, associated electrical and control modifications and demolition of the existing surface drip irrigation system strainers. Find project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Categorical Exemption Class 1; Section 15301(a) Existing Facilities. Direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

The Plans and Specifications are on file with the Clerk of Board.

### **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

The Master Professional Services Agreement with Provost and Pritchard was approved by the Board on October 9, 2012. Task Orders #1 and #2 were also approved by the Board on October 9, 2012. Task Order #3 was approved by the Board on March 19, 2013. This Master Professional Services Agreement allows staff to bring additional Task Orders to the Board for approval as the process of making repairs to the Yosemite West Sewage Treatment Plant moves forward.

The Yosemite West Sewage Collection and Treatment system has a long history of challenges. On August 30, 2012, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) cited several deficiencies they observed on a recent site visit in a Notice of Violation (NOV), which was delivered to the County on behalf of the Yosemite West District. This NOV required that the County (District) prepare a series of reports and plans on how to address the noted deficiencies. The required reports and plans were submitted to the RWQCB in late 2012 and accepted.

The request to Solicit Bids for improvements to the wastewater facility is part of the completion of Task Order #3 by Provost and Pritchard. The design efforts and preparation of the Plans and Specifications satisfy the requirements by the RWQCB to construct these improvements during the 2013 construction season.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

None that can be recommended. The RWQCB has mandated that improvements be made to the system. If those improvements are not made the District will face substantial fines and penalties.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

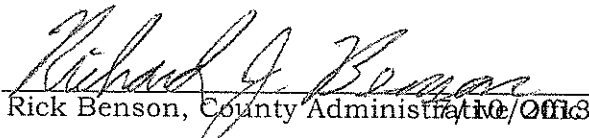
No financial impact at this time.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

130716 Notice of Exemption Form DPW Project (DOC)

**CAO RECOMMENDATION**

Requested Action Recommended

  
Rick Benson, County Administrator/Office

**RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

**SECONDER:** John Carrier, District V Supervisor

**AYES:** Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier

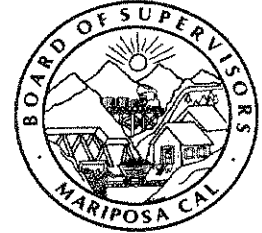


# COUNTY of MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

LEE STETSON, CHAIR  
KEVIN CANN, VICE-CHAIR  
JANET BIBBY  
MERLIN JONES  
JOHN CARRIER

DISTRICT I  
DISTRICT IV  
DISTRICT III  
DISTRICT II  
DISTRICT V



## MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### MINUTE ORDER

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TO: PETE REI, Public Works Director  
FROM: RENE' LaROCHE, Clerk of the Board *RL*  
SUBJECT: Discussion and Direction Regarding the Status of Provost and Pritchard Master Agreement Activities and Budget Shortfall

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on July 16, 2013

#### ACTION AND VOTE:

##### **7. Public Works (ID # 2637)**

##### **Discussion and Direction Regarding the Status of Provost and Pritchard Master Agreement Activities and Budget Shortfall**

The Staff presentation was made by Mr. Rei.

Mr. Rei discussed the current monthly base rates of \$26.90 for water and \$20.75 for sewer, noting that these are much higher than other communities; discussed potential rate scenarios and their effects on the financial shortfall; and noted that he would like direction to find a firm that specializes in rate increases.

Rick Benson noted that anything the Board chooses to do should be predicated upon a rate increase that will provide the needed funds. He noted the following options: put in a rate increase and wait until there's enough money; or, make an interest-bearing loan to the District. He noted that the latter option would require a firm dollar amount so that he can make a recommendation of the source from which to borrow; and that there are not many accounts to choose from. Mr. Benson also noted that there is a third option which he does not recommend and that is to use funds from the County's General Reserves. He restated that if the Board decides to make a loan, then he will need a dollar amount and direction to determine the best place from which to borrow, with the resulting information coming back as a Board item. He also remarked that one other option is for the Board to gift the money; but noted that he doesn't believe that is in the best interests of the County.

Supervisor Cann restated that a study is needed in order to have enough information to act; and noted that \$25,000 is needed for a maintenance/operation study so that we know what we need on an annual basis. Mr. Rei affirmed. Supervisor Cann remarked that he thinks we need to

move forward with the maintenance study so that we don't need to guess amounts. Mr. Rei responded that while this item was structured for the wastewater side, the same arguments could be made for the water treatment and distribution side; however, he is only proposing the \$25,000 for the wastewater side because that is what Provost and Pritchard are recommending. Supervisor Cann noted that not moving forward with the study will not help. Supervisor Stetson required clarification regarding the amount of funds remaining after earlier items.

Supervisor Cann required clarification from the CAO as to what can be determined today. CAO responded.

Supervisor Bibby required clarification of the amount needed for this item, at this point in time. Mr. Rei responded. Supervisor Bibby noted her disagreement with the idea of gifting; and inquired if there is a way to move faster when people are in delinquency. Mr. Rei responded, noting that the latter issue falls under the Tax Collector.

Mr. Rei discussed the inability to give a quantifiable number without knowing many important variables; and cautioned that, additionally, we would have no funds left after paying this so there will be nothing available for any other repairs that may become necessary.

Supervisor Jones and Mr. Rei discussed the studies that need to be done and their approximate costs. Mr. Rei also noted additional items that will be coming to the Board in the near future due to lightning damage. Barbara Carrier noted that these numbers are based on the budget that was prepared in April; and that they don't have the exact fund balance. Supervisor Jones inquired as to the cost for these two studies and Mr. Rei responded that \$50,000 should be sufficient.

Supervisor Carrier noted that, in addition, they will also need to spend \$95,000 for the flow meter and strainer. Mr. Rei noted that these are only the Year One requirements from the Water Board, and that there are also Year Two improvements that will also be required. Supervisor Carrier remarked that a course of action would be for the Board to look at a short term loan to mitigate the Notice of Violation right now, and then try to determine the larger number of what needs to be spent and explore other funding avenues to fix the big infrastructure issues. Mr. Rei discussed upcoming funding fairs. Supervisor Carrier discussed his preference to not set a precedent of loaning money to areas. Supervisor Stetson responded.

Supervisor Bibby required clarification as to which issues needed direction. Mr. Rei responded and discussed potential courses of action.

Supervisor Carrier noted that, regardless of what is decided today, he would like to see a rate study performed to insure transparency for the Yosemite West community. Mr. Rei responded that this could probably be structured with options.

Supervisor Cann remarked on the need to do the analysis; and noted that the issue appears to be whether Public Works should undertake the \$25,000 wastewater system analysis, or should they do the analysis for both the water and wastewater, noting that at some point they also have roads. Mr. Rei noted that, in his opinion, the roads could be handled through a zone of benefit, which would separate water, sewer and roads budgets. Supervisor Cann noted that it is impossible for the Board to move forward with large spending without a plan for recouping it; and clarified what needs to be done today. Mr. Rei remarked that if the Board could approve \$50,000 today, he could come back

with a proposal to do the water and sewer studies, noting that he thought the Board could approve the \$25,000 for the sewer today.

County Counsel clarified that the Board cannot take any action today, but can indicate direction.

Supervisor Bibby indicated that she would need to see a rate increase come before any loan. Mr. Rei responded that in order to do a rate increase, he would need the direction to come back to the Board with a rate study. Supervisor Bibby inquired if Mr. Rei could also check with the Tax Collector to see if there is a shorter period of time that could be implemented on the outstanding balances.

Supervisor Carrier indicated that he would like to move forward with the two studies, then base any rate increase on the amount that will be loaned, plus some additional for the reserve; get some cash flow going; then proceed with the study for the final rate increase then adjust, if necessary.

Supervisor Jones indicated that he would like to see the studies completed, in order to get the necessary information.

Chair Stetson inquired if Public Works now has sufficient direction. Mr. Rei responded that he is clear on implementing the studies, but is unclear on the funding issue.

Supervisor Bibby required confirmation that the community can say, at any time, that they don't want Mariposa County to operate this. Mr. Rei responded. Public comment opened.

Barry Turner/Yosemite West resident inquired if there was a maintenance plan when Psomas engineered the first plant; noted that caustic water and erratic pressure contributes to some of the overdue accounts as lines sometimes break when a house is vacant and water runs unchecked, resulting in large water bills. Mr. Turner also noted the amount generated from the Transient Occupancy Tax last year, and remarked that the County has to fix the water system first before raising rates.

Mr. Rei responded on the original Psomas maintenance plan and its overall usefulness to the County today.

Supervisor Bibby discussed the water quality issue. Mr. Rei noted there is high lead and copper in the water. Mr. Nielsen noted that the Yosemite West water is corrosive because of high levels of CO<sub>2</sub>; and elaborated on the water quality and its effects.

Supervisor Bibby and Mr. Rei discussed the overdue balances.

Supervisor Carrier and Mr. Nielsen discussed the PH level and pressure spikes.

Mr. Turner noted that his water bills are large; that pressure relief valves do not work with caustic water because it attacks and thins the copper lines which blow, and can go undetected for months.

Mr. Rei restated his direction to proceed with the maintenance and operations plans for both the water and the wastewater treatment facilities; work with the CAO on the discussion of what, ultimately, could become a rate hearing; and that the Board would want a third party for the latter, so Public Works will investigate appropriate firms. The Board members indicated their concurrence.

Cc: Bill Davis, Auditor  
File