

STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 29, 2008

TO: Utilities Commission

FROM: Lonnie Thibodeaux, Water Utilities Director

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF A BUDGET APPROPRIATION FROM THE PROPOSITION 50 CLEAN BEACH GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE LOWER SAN LUIS REY RIVER BACTERIA SOURCE TRACKING STUDY PROJECT AND APPROVAL OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT TO PERFORM THE STUDY**

SYNOPSIS

Staff recommends that the Utilities Commission recommend that the City Council approve a budget appropriation in the amount of \$554,375 from the Proposition 50 Clean Beach Grant Program for the Lower San Luis Rey River Bacteria Source Tracking Study project; approve a professional services agreement in the amount of \$507,275.24 with MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Incorporated, of San Diego to perform the study, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement upon receipt of all supporting documents.

BACKGROUND

The Lower San Luis Rey River and river mouth currently suffers from elevated bacterial levels negatively impacting water quality in the river mouth and the adjacent shoreline. In 2005, this beach area was posted due to bacterial exceedance 209 days; 186 days were during one consecutive stretch. The City of Oceanside has been sampling the San Luis Rey River since 1994 to determine the source or sources of the bacterial exceedance. Thus far, the results are inconclusive. One potential source is from birds that frequent a sand island in the river mouth. During low tides when the island is not submerged hundreds of birds are found on the island. When tidal influx causes the island to be submerged, the bird waste is washed from the island and is released into the river mouth flow. It is theorized that this may contribute to bacterial exceedance in the coastal mixing zone.

The Lower San Luis Rey River Bacteria Source Tracking Study project proposes to use multi-tiered testing methods to “fingerprint” the types of bacteria that are collected and analyzed from seven locations along the river, including the river mouth. Oceanside currently collects bacterial samples at these seven sites. This grant will fund the multi-tiered analysis approach to determine the source of the bacteria. Once these sources are definitively established, methods to eliminate the input of these sources will be evaluated.

On July 18, 2007, the City Council approved the adoption of a resolution authorizing entering into a Proposition 50 Clean Beach Grant Program Agreement with the State of

California for the award of \$554,375 for the Lower San Luis Rey River Bacteria Source Tracking Study project. The agreement was fully executed on December 11, 2007.

ANALYSIS

In order to conduct the study an environmental consulting firm is required to provide the technical services needed. On November 8, 2007, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was submitted to eight environmental consulting firms and four proposals, MACTEC: \$507,275, Brown & Caldwell: \$499,660, Weston: \$543,008 and RBF: \$544,358, were received. Five reviewers individually rated the four proposals using an established City of Oceanside rating form. A meeting was conducted with the five reviewers to discuss the individual ratings and the bacteria source tracking techniques proposed by each consulting firm. It was determined that MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. was rated the highest overall, and offered the best toolbox of techniques to conduct the study.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff recommends that the Utilities Commission recommend that the City Council approve a budget appropriation in the amount of \$554,375 from the Proposition 50 Clean Beach Grant Program for the Lower San Luis Rey River Bacteria Source Tracking Study project; approve a professional services agreement in the amount of \$507,275.24 with MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Incorporated, of San Diego to perform the study, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement upon receipt of all supporting documents.

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT

The Water/Sewer Committee reviewed this project during its regularly scheduled meeting on January 8, 2008.

CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS

The referenced documents are being reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Utilities Commission recommend that the City Council approve a budget appropriation in the amount of \$554,375 from the Proposition 50 Clean Beach Grant Program for the Lower San Luis Rey River Bacteria Source Tracking Study project; approve a professional services agreement in the amount of \$507,275.24 with MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Incorporated, of San Diego to perform the study, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement upon receipt of all supporting documents.

PREPARED BY:

Greg Blakely
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