



STAFF REPORT

SAUSALITO CITY COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2020

AGENDA TITLE: Sewer Consolidation Feasibility Study

LEAD DEPARTMENT: Public Works

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sausalito Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Professional Services Agreement with Causey Consulting.

SUMMARY

Staff recommends adopting a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Causey Consulting to develop a feasibility study to consider the effectiveness of combining the City's sewer system with the Sausalito Marin City Sanitary District.

BACKGROUND

The City of Sausalito (City) and the Sausalito-Marin City Sanitary District (District) provide wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment services to the City of Sausalito. The City and the District operate and maintain a complex wastewater system, protecting our community's public health, the environment and San Francisco Bay.

City of Sausalito Collection System: The City operates and maintains 21 miles of sanitary collection system that discharges flow into the District's interceptor pipelines that feed into the wastewater treatment plant located south of Sausalito. Sausalito is an older city and many of the collector sewer lines are more than 50 years old. Sausalito's sanitary collection system is primarily located in the hillsides utilizing a gravity flow system; however, there are several low lying areas that are managed through pumping systems. The City utilizes four sanitary pump stations that are managed by the District. The City of Sausalito currently utilizes three full time staff members to manage the collection system. During emergencies and when needed, other Public Works staff members assist with the maintenance of the collection system.

Sausalito Marin City Sanitary District (District): The District is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors and provides wastewater conveyance and treatment service to the City and wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment service to Marin City and other unincorporated areas within the District's boundaries.

Wastewater conveyance and treatment service is also provided on a contract basis to Tamalpais Community Services District (TCSD) that includes Muir Woods National Monument, and the National Park Service (Forts Baker, Barry and Cronkhite, the Marine Mammal Center and Cavallo Point Resort). The District operates and maintains a complex infrastructure system, protecting our community's public health, the environment and San Francisco Bay. It serves approximately 10,000 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) and a population of approximately 18,000.

In November 2019 City staff forwarded Requests for Qualifications to five professional firms with experience in the sanitary industry. Two firms requested that the statement of qualification date be extended until after the holiday season and based on this request city staff extended the response date to January 10, 2020.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

On January 10, 2020 staff received one proposal from Causey Consulting, a recognized expert in consolidation that has performed work for the City in the past. Staff from the District and the City have reviewed the proposal from Causey Consulting and recommend authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement.

The Sewer Committee, which is composed of representatives from the District's Board as well as two City Council members, will be reviewing this item during their next meeting scheduled for the week of January 27, 2020.

The development of the feasibility study is the first phase in considering consolidation. A subsequent step, if consolidation is found to be advantageous to the City, would be to develop an Operational Plan to review the entire City system and recommend improvements that may need to be implemented prior to consolidating the City's facilities with the District's. If Council approves the referendum action, staff also recommends waiving additional bidding for the development of the Operational Plan. This will allow for a more expeditious approach to consolidating the existing system with the District.

ALTERNATIVES

The City council may choose to:

1. Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Professional Services Agreement with Causey Consulting
2. Not proceed with a consolidation study and provide direction to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of this feasibility study is \$48,726 and will be shared equally by the District and the City. If approved the City's cost of the initial contract, approximately \$25,000, will be supported by the Sewer Operating fund and the district will be billed for one-half of the cost.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Professional Services Agreement with Causey Consulting

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution
Draft Agreement
Causey Consulting Proposal

REVIEWED BY: Kevin McGowan, Director of Public Works and City Engineer
REVIEWED BY: Yulia Carter, Administrative Services Director and Assistant City
Manager
REVIEWED BY: Mary Wagner, City Attorney
SUBMITTED BY: Adam W. Politzer, City Manager
