



# CITY OF SAN MATEO

City Hall  
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## Agenda Report

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Agenda Number: {{item.number}}

Section Name: {{section.name}}

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**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Drew Corbett, City Manager  
**PREPARED BY:** Public Works Department  
**MEETING DATE:** July 20, 2020

**SUBJECT:**  
Wastewater Treatment Plant Influent Junction Box Repairs – Agreement

### RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution to authorize an alternative purchasing method; award an agreement to H&R Plumbing and Drain Cleaning, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$107,600; establish a contingency reserve of \$11,000; and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the agreement in substantially the form presented and issue change orders within the contingency amount.

### BACKGROUND:

Wastewater flow to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) enters the facility through the Influent Junction Box (IJB). A critical structure, the system lacks redundancy as there is no ability to divert the flow entering the IJB in case of a structure failure. Due to a corrosive environment, the IJB is exhibiting severe deterioration and there is damage to the reinforced concrete walls. An assessment of the structure was conducted through the Interim Action Project 2, which recommended an extensive \$1.6 million repair. To expedite the repair and address concerns over further deterioration that could create a catastrophic failure, and since the facility will be abandoned as part of the WWTP Upgrade and Expansion Project in 2024, staff investigated an alternative approach to provide a corrosion barrier using a composite mortar system. This approach provides interim protection by preventing further deterioration, will be faster to construct, can be done while part of the structure is in service, and is significantly more cost effective.

The repair to the IJB is of an urgent and emergency matter per the following:

- The IJB's walls are continually corroding, and it is not known if / when a wall failure will occur. Repairing the IJB as soon as possible will reduce risks to WWTP operations. Work will have to be performed during the dry season (before October 1), since taking an IJB compartment offline would reduce total WWTP capacity. If the project were delayed past October 1, 2020, work would have to be performed in 2021, resulting in greater corrosion damage over time.
- An IJB wall failure may inhibit flow to one or more of the WWTP's four primary clarifiers, reducing plant capacity. If this occurs during wet weather flows, it may lead to a backup of raw sewage (spills) and / or affect the plant processes, resulting in permit violations.
- The WWTP does not have the means to bypass the IJB. Installation of a bypass pumping system is estimated to take up to a week to complete, which would be especially risky if a wall failure occurred during the wet season and may lead to overflows as stated above. Bypassing the IJB to repair a wall failure are estimated to cost over \$100,000 per month in addition to the cost of repairs.

Under section 3.60.050(a) of the City's municipal code, the competitive bidding process is not required when "an

emergency exists affecting or threatening to affect the public health, safety, or welfare.” Public Contract Code § 1102 defines an emergency as “a sudden, unexpected occurrence that poses a clear and imminent danger, requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, or essential public services.” Based on the urgency and potentially catastrophic harm implicated by the condition of the IJB, the contract to repair the influent junction box is exempt from the competitive bidding process under the City’s municipal code and state law. As a result, staff developed a request for quotation (RFQ) for the alternative repair approach and submitted the scope of work to three qualified contractors on June 9, 2020. H&R provided the lowest project price, with one bid being non-responsive:

Bidder	Bid Price
Culy Contracting	Non-Responsive
Underground Tech	\$ 402,000
H&R Plumbing and Drain Repair	\$ 107,600

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

This project is expected to cost approximately \$119,000 and is budgeted under the Clean Water Program’s (CWP) Immediate Action Project II (IAP II) project.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

This contract is categorically exempt from CEQA as an “existing facility,” because it consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.)

**NOTICE PROVIDED**

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Att 1 – Proposed Resolution

Att 2 – Agreement

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