



# CITY OF SAN MATEO

City Hall  
330 W. 20th Avenue  
San Mateo CA 94403  
[www.cityofsanmateo.org](http://www.cityofsanmateo.org)

## Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 9

Section Name: {{section.name}}

Account Number: 10-4677

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**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Drew Corbett, City Manager  
**PREPARED BY:** Public Works Department  
**MEETING DATE:** November 21, 2022

**SUBJECT:**

Marina Lagoon Vegetation and Water Quality Management – Appropriation and Amendment

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution to appropriate \$316,300 to the Marina Lagoon Management budget from the City's General Fund; approve Amendment No. 5 to the agreement with Waterworks Industries, Inc. to add scope, extend the term until March 15, 2024, and add compensation for Marina Lagoon vegetation and water quality management in the amount of \$830,000 for a new agreement total of \$1,738,980; establish a contingency reserve of \$82,000; and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the amendment in substantially the form presented and issue any change orders within the contingency amount.

**BACKGROUND:**

On February 3, 2020, Council awarded Waterworks Industries, Inc. (Waterworks) a three-year contract for \$539,730 with the option of two additional one-year extensions. Waterworks' scope includes weekly inspections, water quality monitoring and reporting, regulatory support, algaecide and herbicide applications, vegetation harvesting, and debris removal and disposal.

Four previous amendments have added additional scope and funds, bringing the current contract price to \$908,980. The Public Works Director authorized Amendment No. 1 in June 2020, adding \$93,000 in approved contingency necessary to effectively manage the Marina Lagoon. Amendment No. 2 was approved by Council in August 2020, increasing the overall contract total by \$44,770 for additional work including developing a Management Plan. Amendment No. 3, approved in May 2021, added \$181,480 for calendar years 2021 and 2022 and established a new contingency of \$85,980, of which \$50,000 was authorized through Amendment No. 4 in September 2022. The current agreement expires December 31, 2022.

The Marina Lagoon's environment is dynamic, making it difficult to predict the most effective and efficient management strategies for any given year. Additional funding is needed to continue providing services necessary to maintain water quality, regulatory compliance, recreational capabilities, and aesthetics. Waterworks and staff evaluated several management strategies and determined the most likely for calendar year 2023 will cost \$830,000. The proposed amendment for a one-year extension will require \$316,300 in supplemental funds to the fiscal year 2022-23 Marina Lagoon Management operating budget, which currently has insufficient funds for this amendment.

The increased costs are due to a combination of circumstances including 1) environmental factors and increased growth; 2) regulatory compliance requirements; 3) chemical product label changes and restrictions; 4) additional scope of work for inspections, water quality monitoring, management plan development and implementation, consulting hours, and alternative treatment options; and 5) increased costs for products, equipment, fuel, disposal, and labor.

The Marina Lagoon is currently producing an abundance of nuisance vegetation due to warming water, drought conditions, shallowing of the water due to sedimentation, chemical restrictions, and other factors, which has required additional chemical treatments and mechanical harvesting. Waterworks harvested approximately 80 tons of vegetation in 2021, which increased to 400 tons in 2022. If left unchecked, nuisance aquatic vegetation species such as widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*) and filamentous algae (*Cladophora*), can proliferate to the point of interfering with motor boating and swimming; and pose odor and visual impacts to recreational users and adjacent residents.

Historically, copper algaecides were used as a cost-effective method of managing nuisance algae in the Marina Lagoon. However, the use of copper algaecides was not effective at controlling nuisance algae without also exceeding water quality limits, resulting in non-compliance with General Permit conditions. As a result, a significant amount of additional mechanical harvesting, as well as alternative chemicals, are required to maintain Marina Lagoon, which are more expensive. GreenClean Liquid 5.0 (GCL5) is a sustainable, reduced risk chemistry for algae control but requires approximately four to eight times the amount to effectively target algae.

To control widgeon grass, contractors historically used a product called Sonar One (fluridone), which is no longer allowed to be applied in saltwater due to a manufacturer label change. As a result, Waterworks and the product vendor applied for approval for a Section 24(c) Special Local Needs (SLN) label to allow for continued use of fluridone in the Marina Lagoon for control of widgeon grass. The field study necessary to obtain a SLN for fluridone use has been unsuccessful to date due to timing and growth conditions on the lagoon. It is probable that these approvals will not be granted unless another study is conducted and approved. The alternative chemical applied in 2022 was the contact herbicide Tribune, active ingredient diquat. It was determined that widgeon grass was not responsive to treatment with diquat, and it was not an effective control agent.

The next most fiscally effective and approved product for widgeon grass control is Imazamox, a more expensive product. The recommended approach for 2023 is to use Imazamox and GCL5 for vegetation control along with supplemental harvesting. Additional details regarding possible scenarios and costs can be found in the Scope of Work, Exhibit A to the attached Agreement.

#### **BUDGET IMPACT:**

This work was budgeted in the fiscal year 2022-23 Marina Lagoon Management operating budget; however, based on staff's year-end estimate for this program, there are not sufficient funds within the program's operating budget for this amendment. A supplemental budget appropriation from the General Fund of \$316,300 will be needed to cover this amendment. Based on current revenue projections for the General Fund, it is anticipated that this appropriation can be absorbed without negatively impacting the fund's reserve position.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

This Vegetation and Water Quality Management Agreement is categorically exempt from CEQA 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 – Amendment No. 5

#### **STAFF CONTACT**

Sarah Scheidt, Regulatory Compliance Manager  
sscheidt@cityofsanmateo.org  
(650) 522-7385