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MONTEREY COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Carl P. Holm, AICP, Director



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MEMORANDUM

Date: December 17, 2018

To: District 1 Supervisor Luis A. Alejo
District 2 Supervisor John M. Phillips
District 3 Supervisor Simón Salinas
District 4 Supervisor Jane Parker
District 5 Supervisor Mary Adams

From: Carl P. Holm, AICP, Resource Management Agency Director *CPH*

Subject: Pajaro County Sanitation District – Notification of emergency repairs completed, update on pending repairs, and possible future additional repair needs

cc: Lew C. Bauman, County Administrative Officer
Dewayne Woods, Assistant County Administrative Officer

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise the Board of Supervisors of emergency repairs required at the Pajaro County Sanitation District's Las Lomas Lift Station in early November 2018. It is also to provide an update on the Pajaro Manhole Rehabilitation and Force Main Repair Project as well as the Pajaro Lift Station back-up generator replacement. In addition, staff is in the process of investigating a separate, unrelated issue with a sewer line in along a section of Las Lomas Drive.

Los Lomas Lift Station Emergency Repairs

The situation began on November 4, 2018, when sanitation staff responded to a high alarm callout at the lift station during a PG&E power outage from a blown transfer. Over the following two weeks, sanitation staff responded to multiple evolving issues that lead to the replacement of two check valve, pump arms, and base elbows, as well as the acquisition of two new 20 horsepower pumps. RMA is waiting on final accounting, but the total cost of repair ins in excess of \$230,000, but RMA anticipates no additional impact to the General Fund due to these repairs.

Below is a detailed financial accounting of the costs incurred for emergency repairs.

Septic Pumping	\$165,000
2 Check Valve & Pump Arm Replacement	\$26,300
2 each Flight 20HP Pumps <i>(final cost pending)</i>	\$36,500
2 each 6" Base Elbows	\$2,236
<u>24-hour pump station sanitation staffing <i>(final cost pending)</i></u>	<u>TBD</u>
Total estimate	\$230,036 plus staff time

County Risk Management has been contacted regarding potential relationship between the initial pump inefficiency related to the PG&E transformer issues. County Risk is investigating possible insurance claim, and an update will be provided once further investigation has been completed.

Staff will come to the Budget Committee and Board in early 2019 with final accounting for the Las Lomas Lift Station Emergency Repair.

Incident Detail

On Sunday, November 4, 2018, on-call sanitation staff responded to high alarm callout at the Pajaro County Sanitation Districts (PCSD) Las Lomas Lift Station. Pumps were not keeping up with sewer flows and outside pumping vendor was called out to avoid sewer overflows. This was concurrent with a PG&E power outage due to a blown transformer. The generator that provides emergency back-up power to the pumps also malfunctioned and required a service call and subsequently was brought back online to provide emergency power during the PG&E outage.

The inability of pumps to keep up flows continued through November 8th. A technician was called out and various troubleshooting procedures were employed to determine why the system was not operating properly. During this time sanitation pumping trucks were required on a 24-hour basis to pump sewage and take it to the Watsonville Wastewater Treatment Plant. Without round-the-clock pumping, spills would have occurred.

When power was restored the pumps started running, but could still not keep up with flows. This required the continued use of pump trucks. Staff and technicians did various troubleshooting, and it was thought that the check valves were contributing to the issue.

On Thursday, November 8th, Special Districts staff reached out to a consulting engineer familiar with the PCSD lift stations. After consulting with pump specialist, and based on information about the concurrent PG&E power outage, it was suggested that the inefficiency of the pumps was related to problems with the transformer. On Friday morning, November 9th, evidence supported the failure of one of the check valves. A consulting engineer arrived on site at approximately 9 a.m. to provide design support for the check valve replacement. Shortly after his arrival, the pumps began to work properly and were able to keep up with system flows. Also, during this time it was reported that PG&E completed work on the transformer replacement.

Due to the need for two working check valves, particularly during storm events, staff began the procurement process to replace the check valves. Properly working check valves are particularly critical during the rainy season as this lift station received a high amount of stormwater intrusion during heavy rains.

On Sunday, November 11, 2018, on-call sanitation staff responded to another high alarm callout. As with previous call-outs, pumps could not keep up with flows and 24-hour pumping was again needed. There were no electrical issues identified at this time and evidence pointed to malfunctioning check valves. The procurement of necessary replacement parts was expedited. During this time, one of the two pumps in the lift station began showing signs of failure. A pump from the Pajaro Lift Station was brought to the Las Lomas Lift Station. It was also determined that both pumps should be replaced, keeping the one functioning pump as a spare.

On Thursday, November 15th all equipment had been procured and crews were set to begin mobilization at 11:00 p.m. that evening. The replacement of all equipment must be complete overnight when flows are at their lowest. On Friday morning, the check valves had been replaced, however, once pumping was finally effective to reveal the bottom of the wet well (approximately 15' deep) it was revealed that a piece of equipment used to mount the pump to the bottom of the wet well was broken. The part was procured and installed on Friday night. On Saturday morning, the compressor stopped working and a technician was called out and able to identify the problem. By Saturday afternoon, November 17th, the system was operational, all pumping trucks were called off site. No additional problems have occurred since then.

Pajaro Manhole/Force Main Repair Update

On September 11, 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved the plans and specifications for the Pajaro Sewer Manhole/Force Main project, and authorized an increase appropriations and operating transfers to fund this project in the current fiscal year. The goal was to complete this project before the winter rains set in, however, that timeline was not met.

In October, staff received approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the project. Pending still is for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to move the powerline that is adjacent to the project area. Scheduling with PG&E has been very difficult, and this project has been postponed multiple times. When a date was finally established, PG&E had tentatively scheduled to move the powerpole in mid-December, however due to unanticipated staff changes at PG&E this work has been postponed until January 10, 2019.

Due to fill material availability limitations, staff has also needed to seek minor modifications to the project related to excavation and fill. These changes are being discussed in coordination with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA), and staff has a scheduled to meet with MCWRA the week of December 10th.

At this time, the Pajaro River flows have reached a point where the groundwater conditions at the site are such that it is not feasible to construct the project because the excavation depth would reach the water table. Staff has winterized the site and is taking every precaution to ensure the damaged manhole and force main is monitored and maintained fully operational throughout the rainy season. The project is being planned for implementation in spring 2019, as soon as feasible after the rainy season.

Pajaro Lift Station Emergency Generator Replacement

On September 11, 2018, the Board of Supervisors authorized an increase appropriations and operating transfers to fund this project in the current fiscal year. The plans and specifications for this project is planned to come to the Board for approval in January 2019, and with an equipment procurement timeline of approximately 12 weeks the project is on track for completion by spring 2019.

Sewer Line Repair Along Las Lomas Drive

In October 2018, staff responded twice to a customer's report along Las Lomas Drive of sewer backup into the customer's lateral sewer lines. The customer initially thought the issue was with the lateral line, however, following service along the lateral line it was apparent that the problem likely originated in the main sewer line, not the customer's lateral. In response, the County jetted the main sewer line on two separate occasions approximately a week apart until the issue resolved fully.

The location is adjacent to the site of a former landslide that has resulted in past repairs of the sewer line in the area. Video taken of the sewer line along the section of concern of Las Lomas Drive shows evidence that the pipeline has been misshapen, which is the likely cause of inefficient flow and/or blockages that may be causing the backups into the sewer lateral. At this time, the sewer line appears to be functioning properly and staff is not aware of further backups to the customer's lateral. Staff will continue to monitor the location and evaluate possible repair options, should issues with the sewer line and customer's lateral persist. If deemed needed, staff will come to the Budget Committee and Board in 2019 with options and estimated costs for the sewer line repair along Las Lomas Drive.

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