



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

13

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

Presentation
October 5, 2010

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Tentative Discharge Permit

Location/Council District: All Districts

**Recommendation: Receive and File Oral Report from Sacramento Regional County
Sanitation District**

Contact: David Brent, Engineering Manager, 808-1420

**Presenters: Stan Dean, District Engineer, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation
District (SRCSD), 874-9101**

Department: Utilities

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 14001311

Description/Analysis

Issue: Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Tentative Discharge Permit.

Policy Considerations: The permit for SRCSD's wastewater treatment plant is up for renewal. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued a tentative permit that would mandate SRCSD to construct additional treatment processes at a cost estimated at more than \$2 billion. SRCSD staff will present details of this tentative permit and the impacts this permit will have on sewer treatment rates and development impact fees.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

Sustainability Considerations:

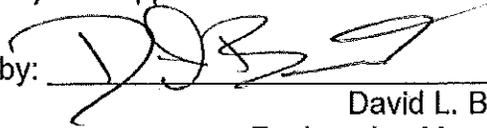
Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: Not applicable.

Financial Considerations: The impact on the operating budget to accommodate additional treatment processes would be sufficient. The economic impact of the increased development impact fees would resonate throughout the regional development community.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable.

Respectfully Submitted by:



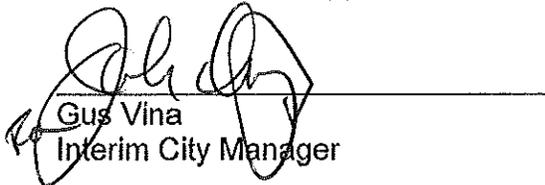
David L. Brent
Engineering Manager

Approved by:



Marty Hanneman
Director of Utilities

Recommendation Approved:



Gus Vina
Interim City Manager

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Attachment 2

Background

The permit for SRCS D's wastewater treatment plant is up for renewal. The California Regional Water Control Board has issued a tentative permit that would mandate SRCS D to construct additional treatment processes at a cost estimated at more than \$2 billion. SRCS D staff will present details of this tentative permit and the impacts this permit will have on sewer treatment rates and development impact fees.

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Sacramento Regional County
Sanitation District

The background of the slide is a dark, blue-toned photograph of a natural landscape. In the foreground, a body of water reflects the sky and the silhouettes of birds in flight. The middle ground shows a line of bare trees against a pale sky. Three large birds are prominently featured in flight, their wings spread wide. The overall mood is serene and natural.

Update on SRCSD's Tentative Wastewater Discharge Permit

SRCSD Background



- Plant began operations in 1982; replaced 22 separate treatment systems to improve water quality in region
- Owns and operates major pipeline infrastructure; treatment plant in Elk Grove
- Discharges to Sacramento River in compliance with State and Federal regulations
- Long history of environmental stewardship; excellent record of permit compliance

SRCSD Background



- Today, SRCSD serves approximately 1.3 million residents in the greater Sacramento region
- Service area includes unincorporated Sacramento County; the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento, Folsom and West Sacramento; and the communities of Walnut Grove and Courtland

SRCSD Service Area

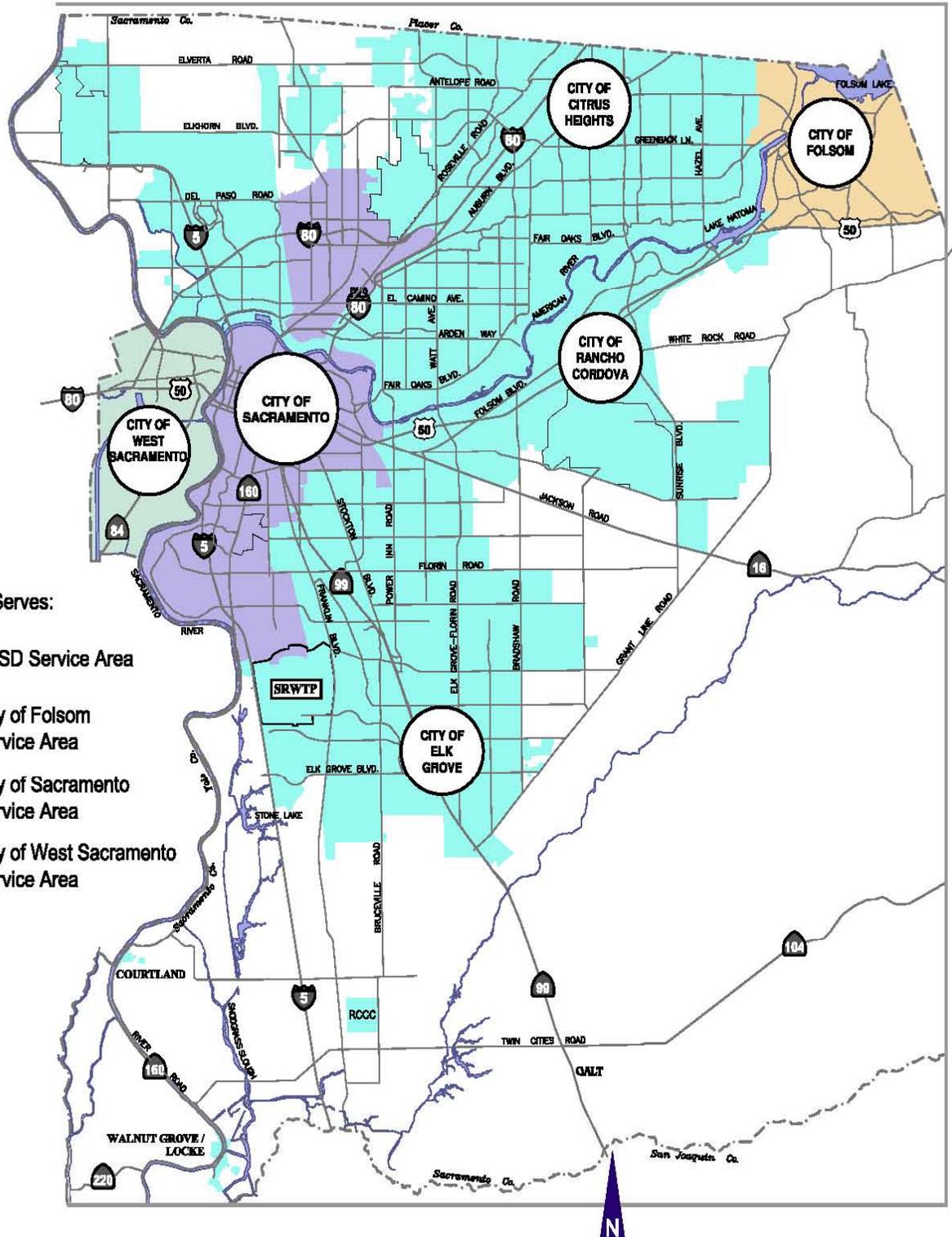
SRCSD Serves:

 SASD Service Area

 City of Folsom Service Area

 City of Sacramento Service Area

 City of West Sacramento Service Area



NPDES Permitting Process



- SRCSD is regulated under the Federal Clean Water Act; authority for the permit is delegated to the State
- Permits dictate the quality of water that must be discharged (not the specific type of treatment)
- Permits must be renewed every 5 years
- SRCSD's permit expired in 2005 but was administratively extended

Current Draft Permit Outcomes & Costs



- Nitrification = \$582 million
- Denitrification = \$200 million
- Microfiltration = \$1.16 billion
- UV Disinfection = \$116 million

TOTAL COST = \$2.06 Billion

SRCSD Concerns with Permit Conditions



- Permit requires advanced treatment based on science that is not fully vetted or compelling
- Not appropriately balanced against the cost to the community
- Permit goes **BEYOND** what is “reasonable and necessary” as required by the Clean Water Act
- SRCSD acknowledges the need to remove about half of the ammonia from its effluent; full ammonia removal is not scientifically justified

Examples of Future Rates/Fees



| Total Project Costs | Annual Operating Cost | Monthly Residential Charge for Wastewater Treatment | | Impact Fees per household (or equivalent) | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|---------|---|----------|---------|----------|
| | | | | Infill | | New | |
| | | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Future |
| \$2.06 billion | \$77 million | \$20.00* | \$61.75 | \$ 2,800 | \$13,000 | \$7,450 | \$35,000 |

*This does not include a separate monthly charge for sewer collection services.

Examples of Future Rates/Fees



Impact (Hookup) Fees:

- A typical “dine-in” restaurant’s impact fee (charged at 2 ESDs per 1,000 square feet) would increase from **\$14,900** to **\$70,000** per 1,000 square feet
- A typical new bar establishment impact fee would increase from **\$5,250** to **\$24,500** per 1,000 square feet
- A typical new dry cleaner impact fee would increase from **\$12,665** to **\$59,500** per 1,000 square feet

Permit Timeframe



- Public Written Comment Period Closes on Oct. 8 at 5 p.m.
- Regional Board Public Hearing – Early December



What Can the Community Do?



- Elevate the regional conversation
- Submit a comment letter to CVRWQCB by Oct. 8
- Sign-up for updates on www.sacdeltasolutions.com
- Use the media to spread the word
- Attend and testify at the CVRWQCB hearing
- Talk to your State and Federal representatives
- Speak with your local community organizations



For more information visit:

www.sacdeltasolutions.com

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