



Operations Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Valley Sanitary District Board Room
45-500 Van Buren Street, Indio, CA 92201

Members of the public wanting to participate in the open session of their meeting may do so via the following Zoom registration link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86249204932>

Meeting ID: 862 4920 4932

By Telephone: 253-215-8782

Members of the public wanting to address the Board, either during public comment or for a specific agenda item, or both, are requested to send an email notification no later than 12:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting to the Valley Sanitary District's Clerk of the Board at hgould@valley-sanitary.org.

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1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Roll Call

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time set aside for public comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Please notify the Secretary in advance of the meeting if you wish to speak on a non-hearing item.

3. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

3.1. Project Update: EVRA Recycled Water Injection Project

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[3.1 EVRA Recycled Water Injection Project.pdf](#) 

[3.1 Attachment A EVRA Draft Permitting Sequence.pdf](#) 

- 3.2. Hiring a Project Engineer or Additional Consulting Engineering Firms to Help with CIP Projects

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[3.2 Staff Engineer or Consulting Assistance.pdf](#) 

[3.2 Attachment A List of Capital Improvement Projects.pdf](#) 

4. FUTURE MEETING ITEMS

5. ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to the Brown Act, items may not be added to this agenda unless the Secretary to the Board has at least 72 hours advance notice prior to the time and date posted on this notice.



**Valley Sanitary District
Operations Committee
October 5, 2021**

TO: Operations Committee

FROM: Ron Buchwald, Engineering Services Manager

SUBJECT: Project Update: EVRA Recycled Water Injection Project

<input type="checkbox"/> Board Action	<input type="checkbox"/> New Budget Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> Contract Award
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing FY Approved Budget	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a project update and information regarding EVRA’s Recycled Water Injection Project.

Strategic Plan Compliance

This item complies with VSD Strategic Plan Objective 2: Increase Recycling, Reuse and Sustainability.

Fiscal Impact

The current fiscal year impact of this project is \$200,000. The total estimated construction cost of this project is \$24,677,000 to be spent over the next four (4) or more years.

Background

Staff from both IWA and VSD have made good progress on developing a recycled water project over the past couple of years. Staff has determined that surface spreading of recycled water on VSD treatment plant property will not work due to thick layers of clay that will prevent the water from reaching the lower aquifer. Staff has also determined that an ancient fault on or near VSD property along the storm channel should not affect the ability to inject recycled water to the lower aquifer. Lastly, staff has met with the State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water and the Regional Board regarding next steps that will be required to eventually be permitted to inject recycled water into the lower aquifer.

Some of the key next steps required will be to perform a groundwater flow model to determine the amount of time it takes for injected water to travel over a preset period. This will be used to determine if groundwater wells that are downstream of VSD’s plant will be affected by the injection of recycled water. Also required will be to complete the State Board’s 1211 application process. This application will be used to determine the amount of VSD’s secondary effluent water that can be diverted from the storm channel

and be used to create recycled water. This application will be evaluated based on both the environmental factors within the channel as well as the needs of the downstream stakeholders of the storm channel including Tribal representatives and Salton Sea supporters. The 1211 application generally takes about a year to complete and is generally approved if all stakeholders are satisfied that the recycled water project will not affect their needs or environmental concerns. Lastly, a Technical Advisory Consultant will be needed to strategize and guide the recycled water project forward, to develop a confident message that this project will not affect stakeholders adversely, and to help develop a consistent message that this project will be valuable to all stakeholders including VSD & IWA customers. See attachment A to this report for the draft regulatory permitting sequence and timeline for receiving the required permits to inject recycled water in the aquifer.

Staff of both IWA and VSD are planning to move forward with these key steps soon. A date for the next EVRA Board meeting as been set for October 19, 2021. There are some staffing changes at IWA with Trish Rhay leaving IWA to head back to Seattle. This may slow the process down some, but one suggestion is for VSD to take on more of the work moving forward until IWA becomes fully staffed. This includes soliciting and hiring of consulting firms directly with VSD Board approval and being reimbursed by EVRA/IWA at some point down the road. This idea will be discussed further during the Operations Committee meeting.

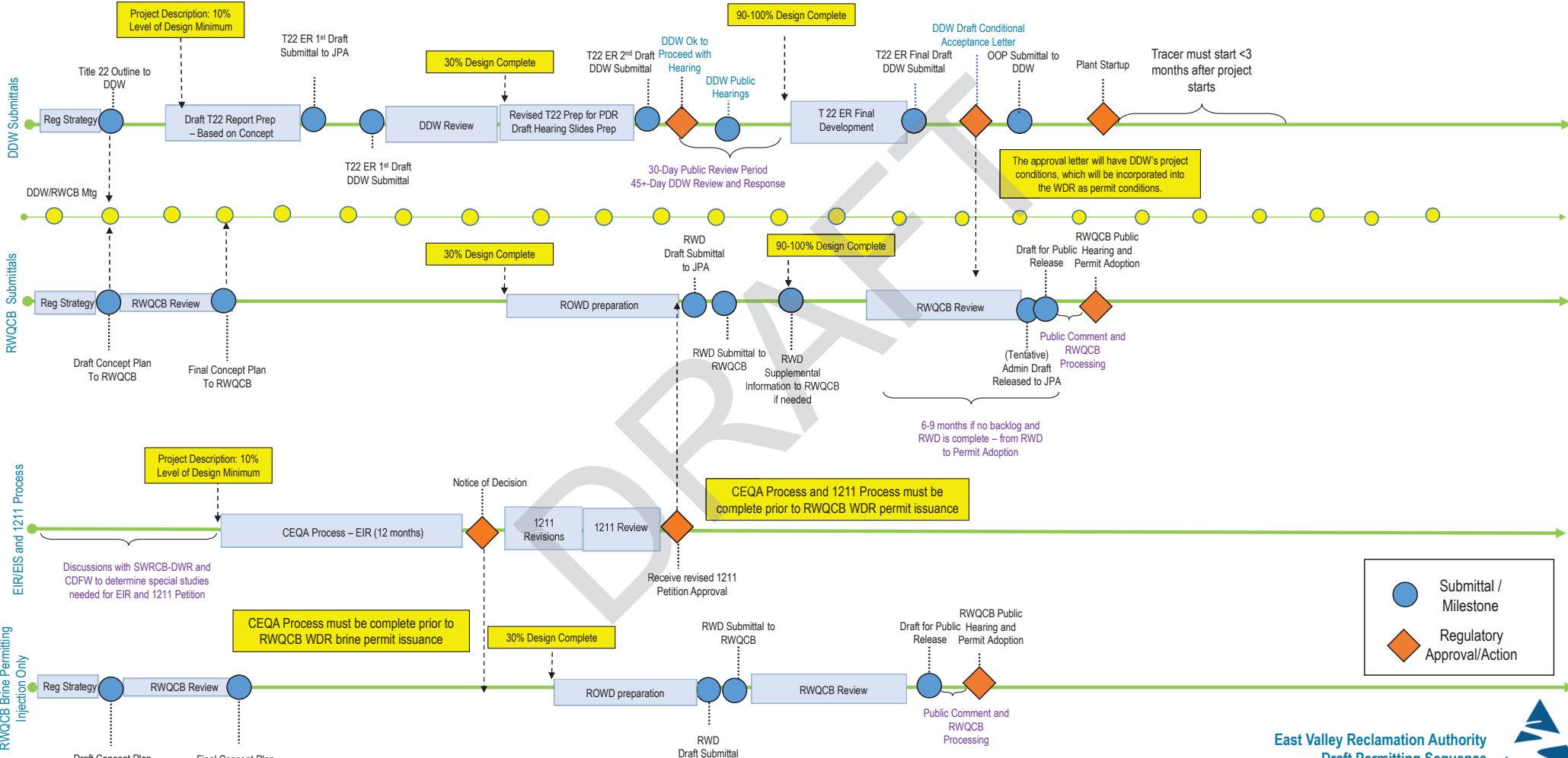
Recommendation

No recommendation. Information only.

Attachments

Attachment A – EVRA Draft Regulatory Permitting Sequence and Timeline

2023				2024				2025				2026				2027				2028			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4



- Submittal / Milestone
- ◆ Regulatory Approval/Action



**Valley Sanitary District
Operations Committee
October 5, 2021**

TO: Operations Committee
FROM: Ron Buchwald, Engineering Services Manager
SUBJECT: Hiring a Project Specific Engineer or Additional Consulting Engineering Firms to help with CIP Projects

<input type="checkbox"/> Board Action	<input type="checkbox"/> New Budget Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> Contract Award
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing FY Approved Budget	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to discuss the need to hire a Project Specific Engineer or a Consulting Firm or Firms to assist with the CIP workload over the next couple of years.

Strategic Plan Compliance

This item complies with VSD Strategic Plan Objective 1: Fully Staffed with a Highly Trained and Motivated Team.

Fiscal Impact

The payroll cost of an engineer or paying for consulting firm(s) tied to a specific CIP project will be added to the budget of those specific project(s). Any funding received via loans or grants would be used to pay the cost of the project engineer or consulting firm(s). There should be very little to no administrative costs for this position or firm.

Background

VSD has several, significant CIP projects that are in the process of design and will be heading towards construction in the next 3 to 6 months (Please see attachment A for a list of CIP projects). Each project is important and needed. Delaying any of the projects will only prove to be more costly in the future. Currently, VSD has one civil engineer and one assistant engineer on staff to review, coordinate and guide consultants or design build teams on these projects. VSD staff from other departments including Operations, Maintenance, Collections, and Development Services have stepped up to the plate and assisted with these projects. Their time and effort are very much appreciated but there is a need for further engineering review and guidance.

Staff is recommending exploring a couple of options to provide engineering help. One option is to hire a project engineer on a temporary basis that would be tied to CIP projects. In other words, once the CIP projects are complete, the position would end. The payroll costs of the position would be added to the cost of the CIP projects. Any

funding received for the CIP projects via loans or grants would then pay for the payroll cost. The second option would be to hire consulting firms that would provide a dedicated engineer to assist VSD staff with CIP projects. The cost of hiring a consultant would be added to the cost of the CIP project and be reimbursed the same way as hiring a project engineer. Staff would prefer option 1, however, it may prove difficult to find a project engineer in this hiring environment especially on a temporary basis. Staff would like to further discuss this during the Operations Committee meeting.

Recommendation

No recommendation. Information only.

Attachments

Attachment A: List of CIP projects both active and in queue.

Monthly Capital Improvement Project Update - September 2021

Project Title	Project Description	Current Status	Fiscal Year Budget	Total Spent to Date
Westward Ho Sewer Siphon Replacement Design and Construction	Due to the February 2019 rain event, the existing VSD sewer siphon that crosses the CVWD storm channel at Westward Ho Drive became exposed and was damaged. In order to prevent this from happening again in the future, Carollo Engineers is currently working with VSD on the final design of a new sewer that is to be constructed well below the new channel scour depth. The design being proposed would utilize horizontal directional drilling to create a new sewer siphon alignment under the channel and adjacent to the original siphon. Permit processing with at least CVWD and possibly other regulatory agencies may extend the design/permit period. Some or possibly all the project costs will be reimbursed by FEMA / CalOES.	Carollo has made the necessary corrections listed by CVWD and IWA. VSD will resubmit plans to both agencies for review once the additional potholing at Westward Ho Drive is complete.	\$2,562,063.00	\$0.00
Collections System Rehabilitation Projects	Harris & Associates is assisting the District in creating a 10-year rehabilitation and replacement program for the collections system. The purpose of this project is to repair, rehabilitate, replace and/or realign aging or defective pipelines and/or segments projected to reach capacity within the foreseeable future. Harris and the District have assigned a rating and priority to all of the pipes in the collection system and are splitting them up into projects for each fiscal year. The first project for this fiscal year will consist of the rehabilitation of approximately 2,300 feet of sewer located in Indio Boulevard and underneath the railroad near Cabazon Avenue using cured in place lining. The second project will consist of hiring a contractor to perform CCTV inspections of all pipes within the District that cannot be surveyed by collections staff due to high flows or pipe diameter. The third project is the downtown Indio rehabilitation and repair project. This project is being done to rehabilitate and replace deficient sewer mains in the streets and allies of the downtown area.	Harris and VSD staff have reviewed the CCTV video taken by National Plant Services with no issues observed. The remaining retention will be paid to the contractor and the project will be closed. Harris has submitted the 90% design plans and VSD is currently reviewing them.	\$2,900,000.00	\$25,977.50
Reclaimed Water Project Phase 1	The contract for this project was awarded to Schneider Electric / Stantec. The project design cost is \$2,200,000 and project schedule is approximately 460 days. Construction costs will be determined during the design phase and will be awarded to Schneider Electric / Stantec upon approval of the Board. The Reclaimed Water Project – Phase 1 will replace an aging and capacity restricting grit chamber and provide redundancy by adding a second digester and expanding the bar screens. This project will also include adding a biofilter, and a sludge thickener unit.	Schneider Electric has completed the 30% design plans and has submitted them to the District for review. Staff have provided comments for Schneider for incorporation. Schneider is working on the next design submittal.	\$2,200,000.00	\$0.00. Per the contract, no payment is due until the project reaches the 60% design phase at which time \$2.2 million will be due.
Influent Pump Station Rehabilitation	Stantec is assisting the District as an Owner's Representative and DCI / Dudek are acting as the design-build team for this project. The influent pump station structure is showing significant signs of deterioration. Proposed improvements to the pump station include: bypass of the pump station for inspection and repair, repair/replacement of leaking and broken gates, repair of interior concrete coating, installation of new valves for proper isolation/drainage, installation of a new jockey pump in the empty pump bay.	Dudek has submitted the Basis of Design Report which Stantec and VSD staff have reviewed. Dudek has also submitted the 30% design plans which Stantec and VSD are currently reviewing. Dudek and VSD are coordinating the ordering and purchasing of long, lead items.	\$3,634,476.00	\$27,007.52
New Training and Office Building and Laboratory Building	The District and SGH Architects are developing the initial design for a new office / training building that will be located to the west of the existing Operations building. The purpose of this new building is to provide space for new offices for collections and maintenance personnel as well as a training area for company events and meetings. Also as part of this project, VSD has contracted SGH to develop designs for a new laboratory building to replace the existing lab due to the current issues lab staff are experiencing with the layout and air filtering system.	SGH Architects is continuing with final design of both the Office & Training and Laboratory Buildings and has provided an updated floor plan for the office building. SGH is working with VSD staff on refining the laboratory layout and floor plan.	\$1,922,000.00	\$0.00

Monthly Capital Improvement Project Update - September 2021

Project Title	Project Description	Current Status	Fiscal Year Budget	Total Spent to Date
Steel WaterLine Replacement	The above ground, steel waterline adjacent to the aeration basins is old and prone to leaks, especially at the grooved joints, and has exceeded its useful life. The new steel waterline will have traditional joints that will provide a longer life. This project has been on the books for several years and has been a lower priority due to lack of leaks in recent years and the difficult nature of replacement. The project was awarded to Dudek who has begun the development of the project design and specifications.	Dudek has completed the 60% design plans and specifications which VSD staff is currently reviewing.	\$642,000.00	\$0.00
Additional Parking and Landscaping	The District is need of additional parking for employees and customers. Staff proposes to remove the lawn at the front of the property and replace it with parking and drought tolerant landscaping.	A preliminary design of the Project has been completed. In que for the next steps.	\$500,000.00	\$0.00