

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 17, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: Tom Hennig, General Manager
Subject: Residences East and West Recycled Water Waver Request

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider the request from the owners of Murieta Club Properties to wave the recycled water requirements for the Residences East and West of Murieta Hills.

BACKGROUND

Murieta Club Properties, LLC has submitted a report, which is included as part of this staff memo, on the future availability of recycled water as development expands the number of homes within the District. In their report they have cited that the amount of water used by homes within Rancho Murieta was significantly overstated, which resulted in unrealistic estimates for the volume of recycled water produced by existing and planned development. The work was completed by local developer John Sullivan. Over the past several months Mr. Sullivan and fellow developer Bob Keil, have made several requests for the District to consider the economic consequences for requiring that recycled infrastructure be built when there is little chance of there ever being enough recycled water available. Key to this discussion is the need for the District to pay for the infrastructure to deliver the water to a location near the Residences development. It has been estimated that the cost of this project would exceed three-million dollars of District reserve funds. This estimate is based on the 2017 Recycled Water Program Preliminary Design Report.

In the attached documents, Mr. Sullivan provided his overview of the results of calculating the amount of available recycled water as development occurs. If these figures are accurate, it is clear that funds spent to deliver recycled water to the Escuela and Stonehouse park sites will be wasted on a system that will not be used.

At the direction of the Improvements Committee Mr. Sullivan and General Manager, Tom Hennig, met with the District's Engineer, Joe Domenichelli, to review Mr. Sullivan's calculations. The group has met twice since the Improvements Committee meeting on August 5, 2021. These meetings involved the review of Mr. Sullivan's report and the discussions related to the variety of documents related to the District's Recycled Water program. We paid particular attention to the District's **2014 Master Recycling Permit** which is on file with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) and the **2017 Recycled Water Program Preliminary Design Report**. The key elements to these reports include the identification of the various District locations and planned developments that were considered the optimum sites for discharging recycled water. As part of this review, we found inconsistencies between the two documents, as well as a need to update some of the critical assumptions for the volume of available recycled water as the development proceeds. These inconsistencies included the following:

- In the Master Recycling Permit, the Lakeview and Riverview developments were slated to receive recycled water. When the Preliminary Design Report was completed three-years later, this requirement was removed. Riverview and Lakeview are not being required to plan for recycled water use.
- The overall volume of available recycled water is calculated using the average daily wastewater per household of 210 gallons. The current average daily production has been 159 gallons per household. This

is nearly twenty-five percent less than the volume predicted in earlier studies, which would result in significantly less availability of recycled water.

- The existing potential for discharging recycled water at the two golf course locations within the Preliminary Design Report does not consider the total amount of opportunity for using water. The estimates at the time considered the amount of recycled water delivered to the two courses. These estimates did not include the additional water used by the courses before and after the availability of recycled water. In all years, the golf course pumps water from the Cosumnes River with a private pump to meet the demands when the tertiary treatment system is not available.

CONCLUSION

At this time, we have studied the numbers provided by Mr. Sullivan and recommend that the Board reconsider our commitment to build nearly four-million dollars in infrastructure to deliver recycled water to Escuela and Stonehouse parks. This decision would also eliminate the availability of recycled water for the Residences East and West developments. It is also recommended that the District consider requiring the landscaping requirements for the development to be more drought tolerant than the current Sacramento County standards.

It is also recommended that the Board direct the General Manager to work with Domenichelli and Associates to review the current plans for the overall use of recycled water within the District boundaries. This review will need to consider current wastewater inflow and the potential for using recycled water to recharge the current potable water supply. This last recommendation is being made to align Rancho Murieta with the current programs supporting Direct Potable Reuse of treated water. This type of project is currently planned to provide the City of San Diego with nearly forty percent of drinking water demands by 2035.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Our recommendation is that the District waive the requirement for mandating the Residences East and West Developments to design the homes to utilize recycled water for irrigation. It is also recommended the District require the Residences East and West Developments to mandate drought tolerant landscaping that exceeds the Sacramento County standards. Lastly, we are recommending the Board direct the General Manager to work with the District Engineer to evaluate the potential for restructuring the recycled water programs to meet modern standards and to maximize the potential for treating wastewater as part of the recent State SB 129 funding approval for \$750,000 to upgrade the tertiary water treatment system.