



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: PW / LCSD
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: June 9, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Laguna County Sanitation District
FROM: Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, P.E., Public Works Director
Contact: Kevin Thompson, P.E., LCSD Manager
SUBJECT: **Laguna County Sanitation District Treatment Plant Legacy Facilities
Decommissioning Project – Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: None

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve plans and specifications for the Laguna County Sanitation District Treatment Plant Legacy Facilities Decommissioning Project, Project No. LFDEC1, on file in the Laguna County Sanitation District office; and
- b) Authorize the Public Works Director to advertise and receive construction bids for the Laguna County Sanitation District Treatment Plant Legacy Facilities Decommissioning Project, Project No. LFDEC1; and
- c) Determine that the advertising for and receipt of bids is an administrative and fiscal activity which will not result in changes in the environment and therefore the action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to consider actions to advertise and receive bids for the Laguna County Sanitation District Treatment Plant Legacy Facilities Decommissioning Project, Project No. LFDEC1. The project will decommission and abandon obsolete treatment facilities at the wastewater reclamation plant, including the trickling filter, original headworks, and original grit chamber.

Discussion:

Several legacy treatment units at the Laguna County Sanitation District Wastewater Reclamation Plant (WRP) are no longer used in the District’s current treatment process. These facilities—including the trickling filter, old headworks, and old grit chamber—were constructed under earlier treatment configurations and have since been replaced by modern, more efficient systems. Although inactive, the structures remain in place and require periodic inspection, maintenance, and safety controls.

The proposed project will formally decommission these facilities by isolating and abandoning obsolete process piping, removing or filling unused structures, and restoring the surrounding site to support ongoing plant operations. In addition, the trickling filter rock is proposed to be used as structural backfill for a pond lining project which your board approved for advertising on December 9, 2025 and is scheduled for fiscal year 2026-2027, which will be more cost efficient than hauling the rock further away. Decommissioning these units will reduce long-term operational risk, be more cost efficient as opposed to long term maintenance of the abandoned equipment, and improve site safety and accessibility. These activities are consistent with industry best practices for retiring outdated treatment infrastructure and support the District’s long-term modernization and reliability goals.

The authority to advertise for receipt of bids is an administrative and fiscal activity and is not a project under CEQA.

Staff therefore recommends initiating the bid process to retain a contractor to complete the decommissioning and site restoration work.

Background:

The Laguna County Sanitation District (District) owns and operates a wastewater reclamation plant serving the Orcutt community and the southern unincorporated Santa Maria area. The plant includes a series of tanks, basins, and process units designed to convey, treat, and disinfect wastewater prior to reuse or disposal. Over time, the District has upgraded its treatment processes to improve efficiency, reliability, and regulatory compliance.

As part of these improvements, several older facilities—the trickling filter and headworks built in 1959, and grit chamber built in 1974 —were removed from active service. While no longer used for treatment, the structures remain on site and require periodic monitoring to ensure structural integrity and worker safety. Retiring these facilities will reduce operational liabilities, simplify plant layout, and support future site improvements. A portion of the headworks and piping around the trickling filter will remain active and serve as an emergency bypass system to improve resiliency.

The proposed project will abandon these units in place or remove them as appropriate, disconnect associated utilities, and complete necessary backfilling, grading, and surface restoration.

Fiscal and Facilities Impact:

Funding for this capital project will be provided by the Laguna County Sanitation District enterprise fund. Funds are budgeted in FY 2026-2027 in Department 054, Fund 2870, Spend Category 7200.

Construction is anticipated to begin in September 2026. A construction contract will be brought to your board for approval at a later date.

Special Instructions:

- A. Email to Public Works – Laguna County Sanitation District, Kevin Thompson, kethomp@countyofsb.org, the following document: a minute order approving these Board actions.

Attachments:

None

Contact Information:

Authored by: Kevin Thompson, P.E.,
LCSD Manager
kethomp@countyofsb.org

Copy:

Angela Arredondo, Accountant Supervising
File