



# 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  
**For Agenda of:** January 14, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**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., Director (805) 568-3010  
Contact Info: Martin Wilder, P.E., General Manager, (805) 882-3605

**SUBJECT:** Request for Bid Waiver on Competition in Purchase of an Influent Screen - Fourth  
and Fifth Supervisorial Districts

## County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

## Other Concurrence: Purchasing

As to form: Yes

## Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

## Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

## Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors:

- Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to waive competitive bidding requirements per County Code Section 2-39(c) to procure a wastewater influent screen in an amount not to exceed \$415,000 from Huber Technology, Inc., not a local vendor, without being required to conduct a formal bid process;
- Determine that the proposed action is not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act Pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378 (b)(2) and (5), as it involves continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as purchases for supplies and administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

## Summary:

This item is on the agenda to consider the purchase of a wastewater step screen for use in the headworks of the Laguna County Sanitation District wastewater reclamation plant. County Code Section 2-39 authorizes the Purchasing Agent to waive competition when there are limitations on the source of supply, necessary restrictions in specifications, or other valid reasons. Where the expenditure would or could exceed twenty-five thousand dollars, competition may be waived only

after approval by the Board of Supervisors. Laguna County Sanitation District recommends waiving competition for procuring this item because an exact duplicate is currently in use and the second unit needs to be the same for appropriate hydraulic control.

**Discussion:**

The headworks at the Laguna County Sanitation District wastewater reclamation plant utilizes two screens in order to accommodate redundancy as well as peak flow rates. The recent plant upgrade installed one new screen and repurposed an existing screen. However, the repurposed screen impedes efficient operation due to its shallower depth and narrower channel than the upgraded screen. To improve operations and redundancy, two like units are required and staff recommends procuring a like unit to the one installed with the plant upgrade.

**Background:**

The Laguna County Sanitation District (District) operates and maintains a wastewater reclamation plant (WWRP) that serves the community of Orcutt and surrounding unincorporated Santa Maria area as well as certain areas with the Santa Maria city limits. The WWRP serves a population of approximately 35,000 and recycles all of its wastewater for beneficial reuse. Several treatment processes are employed at the WWRP including influent screening. These screens remove larger inorganic matter such as paper, plastics and metal objects to prevent damage and clogging of downstream unit processes, equipment, piping and appurtenances. Screening redundancy is a must to perform this task as well as provide for servicing, maintenance and repair.

The recent WWRP included the installation of a new influent screen, Model SSV 5300x976/6, from Huber Technology, Inc. This unit was installed in one of the two parallel channels at the new headworks structure while the second channel was fitted with the existing screen that was installed in the old plant in 2008. This was accomplished using temporary width and depth inserts that the on the premise that due to lesser capacity it would need to be replaced in a few years.

Unfortunately, the old screen has proved to not be able to function as desired in that it causes differential water depth between channels, interferes with the required laminar (smooth) flow regime, and prevent correct flow measurements.

Therefore, staff recommends approving the bid waiver, allowing the Purchasing Agent to procure a duplicate Model SSV 5300x976/6, from Huber Technology, Inc. This will ensure proper operation, provide redundancy, and ensure that downstream treatment assts are protected. Delivery is anticipated to take 10 to 12 months from issuance of a purchase order.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

The majority of the purchase order amount of \$415,000, will be budgeted for expenditure in the 2025-2026 fiscal year in Fund 2870, Line Item 8200, while 10% is budgeted for expenditure in the current fiscal year for preparation of submittals and shop drawings.

**Special Instructions to Clerk of the Board:**

- A. Request Clerk of the Board to forward a certified minute order to Kevin Thompson [kethomp@countyofsb.org](mailto:kethomp@countyofsb.org) and to the Laguna County Sanitation District administrative office in the North County Public Works Department building at 620 West Foster Road, Santa Maria, CA 93455.
- B. Request Clerk of the Board to forward a certified minute order to Phung Loman, Purchasing Manager at [ploman@countyofsb.org](mailto:ploman@countyofsb.org) and to the Casa Nueva building at 260 North San Antonio Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Huber Proposal for Influent Screen

**Authored by:**

Kevin Thompson, District Engineer

**Copy:**

Angela Arredondo, Accounting Supervisor

Jerry Nichols, Chief Plant Operator