



# 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:** May 13, 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., PW Director (805) 568-3010  
Contact Info: Martin Wilder, P.E., LCSD Manager, (805) 803-8750

**SUBJECT:** **Recycled Water Use Agreement with Santa Maria Country Club, Fourth Supervisorial District**

## County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

## Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

## Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Board of Directors of Laguna County Sanitation District:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement to supply recycled water to the Santa Maria Country Club; and
- b) Determine that pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162, no substantial changes are proposed, no substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, and no new information of substantial importance regarding environmental effects of the project or of the sufficiency or feasibility of mitigation measures have occurred, and therefore the recommended action is within the scope of the prior environmental review documents for this project, the Santa Maria Country Club Final Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the Board of Directors on November 28, 2023 and no new environmental document shall be prepared for this action.

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### **Summary:**

This item is on the agenda in order to consider the execution of an agreement with the Santa Maria Country Club to supply recycled water for irrigation. The cost to supply recycled water is incentivized to be somewhat less than the alternative water supply cost pursuant to Water Code Sections 13550 and 13580.7. The use of recycled water further reduces the demand on groundwater. This project is part of efforts by Laguna County Sanitation District to meet regulatory requirements for discharging effluent while minimizing cost to its rate payers.

### **Discussion:**

The Laguna County Sanitation District treats wastewater to produce recycled water for beneficial reuse. Current largescale users include the Santa Maria Public Airport District, Waller Park, and the Northern Branch Jail. Current discharge capacity is approximately 2.7 million gallons per day (MGD) but staff recommends matching plant treatment capacity, which is 3.7 MGD. Distribution to the Santa Maria Country Club will add approximately 0.4 MGD in discharge capacity. This agreement allows flexibility to discharge effluent to other users to be able to distribute recycled water in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

### **Background:**

The Laguna County Sanitation District provides wastewater services to the Orcutt and southern and mostly unincorporated Santa Maria area. Wastewater is treated to disinfected tertiary levels, including advanced treatment to reduce salt pollution. The recycled water is used for beneficial uses, such as irrigation, as the means of discharge. The plant treatment capacity is 3.7 million gallons per day (MGD), however, to accommodate planned development it is desired to align treatment and discharge capacities. To do so, the District must plan for new use sites.

A *Market Assessment for Recycled Water* study was prepared in 2000 by CH2M Hill, which included several high demand use sites including the Santa Maria Country Club. This site was a primary candidate with 90 acres of irrigated golf course having an annual average daily water demand of approximately 0.4 MGD. Other discharge alternatives were evaluated in the *Feasibility Study of Treated Wastewater Discharge Options* prepared by CH2M Hill in 2008 that concluded that irrigation provides the lowest cost option. Studies completed by Carollo Engineers in 2023 and 2024 also evaluated groundwater recharge for indirect potable reuse (IPR). While feasible, this alternative is not economically viable without a willing retail party. Therefore, staff recommends expanding discharge capacity to better position the District to handle population growth projected from buildout of the Orcutt Community Plan and Santa Maria Public Airport District Specific Plan as wastewater flows can potentially reach 5.0 MGD.

The District completed the recycled water distribution project to Waller Park in 2023, which leveraged grant funding to serve a public facility. The golf course operated by the Santa Maria Country Club is located immediately north of Waller Park, resulting in a relatively inexpensive project to construct pipeline extensions to the existing water features at the golf course from the pump station at the holding tank located by Waller Park. The recycled water will be used to augment or offset groundwater pumps from wells that currently fill these water features. The recycled water was shown to be compatible with the golf course well water supply in a technical study (*Groundwater/Recycled Water Comparison Study*)

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*completed in 2021.* This action seeks to formalize the uses and responsibilities between parties by executing the attached recycled water use agreement.

A mitigated negative declaration (MND) dated August 2023 was prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts of the project, was adopted by your Board on November 28, 2023, and is available for review at [County of Santa Barbara - File #: 23-01128](#). Therefore, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, the agreement is within the scope of the prior environmental review and no further environmental review is required. The agreement addresses the responsibilities between parties pursuant to regulatory provisions of the Water Code and Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations related to operation of facilities required to supply recycled water., The project is included in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) with construction planned for 2025.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Sale for the recycled water would occur to the Santa Maria Country Club similar to other customers at a rate of \$66.31 per acre-foot with an escalator as described in the agreement.

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

It is requested that the Clerk of the Board:

- A. Forward a certified minute order and one fully executed agreement to Kevin Thompson and Cori Munguia at the Laguna County Sanitation District administrative office in the North County Public Works Department building at 620 West Foster Road, Santa Maria, CA 93455, or by email at [kethomp@countyofsb.org](mailto:kethomp@countyofsb.org) and [cmunguia@countyofsb.org](mailto:cmunguia@countyofsb.org).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Recycled Water Use Agreement with the Santa Maria Country Club

**Authored by:**

Kevin Thompson, Civil Engineer Specialist

**Copy:**

Angela Arredondo, Accountant Supervising  
File