



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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May 7, 2025

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Netra Khatri, City Engineer

**PREPARER:** Mara Grow, Administrative Specialist

**DATE:** April 30, 2025

**TITLE:** **Approve an Amendment to the Contract for Phase 1 of the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facilities Upgrade Project with Carollo Engineers, Inc. in the Amount of \$434,843; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute all Applicable Documents.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Approve an amendment to the contract for Phase 1 of the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facilities Upgrade Project with Carollo Engineers, Inc., for construction and inspection services in the amount of \$434,843; and
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The City of Arcata began construction of one of the largest capital improvement projects in the City's history—the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facilities Upgrade Project. The total project cost for Phase 1 of the improvements is approximately \$67 million— \$2.4 million funded via the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, a small portion via City's Wastewater Fund, and the remainder funded via the State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program.

In December 2021, the City solicited a Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified consulting firms to provide construction management and inspection services for the project.

The City received only one proposal in response to the RFP from Carollo Engineers. The proposal was reviewed by City staff and was deemed to be technically sound and to meet the funding source and City requirements for completion of the work. Carollo's design team has been assisting with the project since 2016. When the contract for Construction Management Services was awarded, the completion date was early December 2025, however due to supply and demand issues the construction period extended to March 2026. The total additional funds of \$434,843, which will bring our total contract to \$3,345,455 is to cover Construction Management staff time for the extended period and additional services requested by the City staff that includes:

- A. Operations and Maintenance Manual Preparation for the Equipment
- B. Project Start-up Support
- C. Additional Geotechnical Inspection Support for Headworks Pile Installation

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Arcata (City) Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF) currently discharges treated wastewater to Humboldt Bay in conjunction with enhanced treatment occurring in the Arcata Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS). Discharges are regulated by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) through application of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

The AWTF operates under NPDES permit, which includes requirements for operation and maintenance, treatment standards, monitoring, discharge location, and water quality standards. In the 2012 NPDES permit, the RWQCB included requirements to make changes to the treatment system due to compliance problems associated with discharge water quality. The intent of the required changes is to improve wastewater treatment, protect beneficial uses, and reduce chemical usage for disinfection. The City completed a Facilities Plan in 2017 for the AWTF that developed four potential options for upgrading the AWTF. Following a number of public meetings, the City Council chose to pursue an upgrade project that retained the natural treatment systems of the current AWTF. The RWQCB adopted and issued the City's latest NPDES permit for wastewater discharge that became effective on December 1, 2019. Concurrently, the RWQCB issued the City a Time Schedule Order with compliance schedules to complete the AWTF Facilities Upgrade Project to address ongoing discharge violations and treatment deficiencies at the AWTF, which mostly arise from disinfection byproducts associated with chlorine disinfection and new water quality standards. Phase 1 of the AWTF Upgrade Project will address these immediate needs by replacing aging treatment plant infrastructure and installing a new UV disinfection system.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):**

City staff completed the required environmental review documents pursuant to both State (CEQA) and Federal (NEPA) requirements. The Notice of determination was filed in December 2020 (Clearing house 2020100483).

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost associated with this contract amendment is eligible for reimbursement through SRF. The contract amendment amount will not be expended until FY 25-26 and staff has requested budget for this amount for FY 25-26 as follows:

WWTP Construction Management Services      \$434,834.00      Account 662-70-65-51770

**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:**

Motion to 1) Approve an amendment to the contract for Phase 1 of the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facilities Upgrade Project with Carollo Engineers, Inc., for construction and inspection services in the amount of \$434,843; and 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents. Consent Calendar vote.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A. Exhibit A-- Scope of Work and Fee Estimate      (PDF)