



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

**FROM:** Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

**PREPARER:** Doug Culbert, Deputy Director of Environmental Services, Streets & Utilities

**DATE:** August 6, 2025

**TITLE:** **Award a Contract to Northpoint Consulting Group, Inc. for Engineering Services for the City of Arcata–First Street Lift Station Improvement Project in the Amount of \$162,600; and Approve Necessary and Associated Related Actions.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Award a contract to Northpoint Consulting Group, Inc. for Engineering Services for the City of Arcata–First Street Lift Station Improvement Project in the amount of \$162,600;
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to increase the contract amount by up to \$8,130 (five percent for a total not to exceed \$170,730) to allow for unforeseen contingencies; and
- 3) Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

On May 29, 2025, the City solicited informal bids for Engineering Services for the First Street Lift Station Improvement Project. The project includes replacing the current natural gas sewage pumps with 3-phase electrical submersible pumps. Additionally, the piping will need to be redesigned for access purposes in the confined space for maintenance as well as for more efficient flow through the lift station. Upgrades to the building and the addition of a gantry crane for safely pulling the pumps are also needed. This First Street Lift Station project has been in the Capital Improvement Program for several fiscal years.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The City has a goal of working to switch from natural and liquid gas fuel to electric in various sectors each year to support climate action. Replacing the current sewage lift station motors that operate on natural gas with 3-phase electrical motors aligns with the goal. Additionally, it is now difficult to obtain parts for the current pumps if they need repairs. The proposed electric pumps are widely used throughout our system and parts are more accessible. Modifications to the lift station building are also needed for more efficient operation of the lift station and managing wastewater flows more effectively into the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF). Flow into the lift station routinely backs up to upstream lift stations due to the outdated design of the piping collection system entering the lift station. This project seeks to address these issues by designing a sewage receiving pipe system that provides the operators with the option to divert flow directly to the AWTF and bypass the bottleneck of the lift station during high flow events.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):**

Environmental review will be conducted for the First Street Lift Station Project as the design process commences. It is anticipated that the planned improvements will be categorically exempt from environmental review based on the following sections of the CEQA Statute & Guidelines handbook:

- Section 15301 (b) existing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services and
- 15302 (c) replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

The budget for this request is within budget allocation under the Wastewater Fund, Activity 67 in the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year. The funds for this project are budgeted as follows:

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Account Name</b>
<b>662-70-67-57604</b>	<b>\$170,730</b>	<b>Capital – 1<sup>st</sup> Street Pump</b>

**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Award a contract to Northpoint Consulting Group, Inc. for Engineering Services for the City of Arcata–First Street Lift Station Improvement Project in the amount of \$162,600;
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to increase the contract amount by up to \$8,130 (five percent for a total not to exceed \$170,730) to allow for any unforeseen contingencies; and
- 3) Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents.

Consent Calendar vote

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Northpoint Consulting Group Inc. Proposal