



AGENDA NO: B-1

MEETING DATE: October 18, 2023

**AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE
RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY BOARD
FOR PUBLIC REVIEW PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Works Advisory Board](#)
Cc: [Council](#)
Subject: Agenda Correspondence - Item B-1 - PWAB Mtg on 10/18/23
Date: Sunday, October 15, 2023 7:09:53 PM

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Dear PWAB Members....

Thank you all for the many hours you spend studying the details of the Public Works projects that come before you. All Morro Bayans appreciate your contributions.

Item B-1 - "Receive the most recent "draft basis of design report" (BODR)" pertaining specifically to the Recycled Water Project which is part of the larger WRF Program.

A. The staff report clearly states the substantial interest rate savings the City has received in support of the WRF Program. This is largely due to the inclusion of the "recycled water project" in the WRF Program. The recycled project was projected to provide up to 80% of Morro Bay's drinking water needs in the event of an extended drought and/or an interruption of the potable water currently being provided by the State Water Project.

B. ***However, after more than five years*** of investigation and study by multiple consultants and agencies of the feasibility, and costs of the planned "IPR" approach:

- (i.e.....1. Piping and pumping tertiary treated water from the new sewer plant on South Bay Blvd., to the area near Lila Keiser Park,
2. Injecting it into the groundwater of the Morro Creek Basin via 8 new wells (only 1 has been built to date),
3. Allowing this water to "travel/migrate" for a specific period of time in the groundwater before it is deemed suitable for extraction,
4. Extract allowable amounts via existing (and new extraction wells?) to be extracted, then treated, then blended with our existing potable water supplies.....)

The "Draft Basis of Design" PWAB is being asked to receive this afternoon

1. does not confirm the feasibility of the IPR approach (i.e. will the projected 8 injection well system actually provide 80% of Morro Bay's drinking water as promised for years?),

2. nor does it provide a peer reviewed firm cost (i.e. Cost per acre foot of water produced including all first costs, piping costs, etc.) required to complete any specific portion of the recycled water project.

3. nor does it provide a firm schedule to complete any specific portion of the project.

C. Nobody in Morro Bay wants to jeopardize the amazingly low interest rates we have worked so hard to obtain. However, it seems we are "throwing bad money after good" by pursuing the IPR project in the Morro Creek Basin location without yet knowing how feasible the approach is, what it will cost, and when it will be done. Perhaps we should "pause" this phase of the project and consider other options.

Are we sure the Chorro Creek basin is not an option? We have piping in place to the City owned wells there. Could we connect to these existing lines with a tertiary treated water line from the new WRF plant and send it to the Chorro Creek Basin which has much greater groundwater volume capacity than the Morro Creek basin? Perhaps the City should assemble a small "special purpose subcommittee" of knowledgeable residents who will work with staff and explore how to best spend the remaining \$9.4Mm of the \$40Mm recycled water budget, without jeopardizing our low interest rate financing.

Thank you all again for your commitment to the residents of Morro Bay and our water needs.

Jeff Heller





AGENDA NO: B-2

MEETING DATE: October 18, 2023

**AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE
RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY BOARD
FOR PUBLIC REVIEW PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Works Advisory Board; Council](#)
Subject: Agenda Correspondence - PWAB MTG-Item B-2 CSD Intertie Project
Date: Sunday, October 15, 2023 11:04:23 AM

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To PWAB members.....

Thank you for all the time you devote to your important advisory board!

Item B-2:

We all know if Los Osos wants to grow it will need more potable water. The Draft Initial Study outlines an approach to tap into state water lines to meet that need.

Yet aren't local agencies directed to *depend less on State water*, and develop innovative recycled water projects to supplement existing potable supplies? That is certainly the direction Morro Bay has been given for years.

Los Osos needs to fully explore all recycled/potable water options with Morro Bay and surrounding agencies, before burdening our strained State water system with more demand. The intertie concept proposed in Item B-2---should be the last option for Los Oso---not the first.

Thank you.

Jeff Heller
Morro Bay City Council
2018-2022