



AGENDA NO: I

MEETING DATE: April 17, 2024

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

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Works Advisory Board](#)
Subject: Capital Projects Prioritization
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 6:56:37 PM

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To Board and Committee Members,

The list of projects shown on the agenda for Wednesday, April 17th have some that are either in a planning stage or in design. Have there been project study reports for any of those and if so, can the public review them? Do any of them have the scope, schedule and budget established yet and if so, which ones? Will any of them be designed in-house since the city has new professionals onboard or is the city going to put out more requests for proposals for a host of consultants? Spending scarce dollars on consultants takes away from money to actually implement the projects and consumes more time.

Some of the water related projects are integral components in making the overall water reclamation concept work efficiently. They too should be considered as expenses associated with the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) project. The issue regarding the new WRF wastewater treatment plant indicated on page 5 in the staff report says, ***"The SAFE Filter project is necessitated by a construction-related issue at the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), where high levels of hydrogen sulfide gas (H₂S) have caused deterioration in the concrete tank of the safe diversion box."*** Who is going to fix this now since the city left Filanc/Black & Veatch off the hook? Plans for the former Waste Water Treatment Plant Decommissioning on Atascadero Road was required to be reviewed and approved by the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission PRIOR TO OPERATION OF THE WRF (Special Condition 7 of the WRF Coastal Development Permit). It has been 5 years since that condition was approved by the Coastal Commission so what is the city waiting on? Where are the plans?

Some sewer collection system deficiencies were supposed to be fixed with the 2015 rate increase and they are still on the list for prioritization. Why weren't they taken care of back then?

Also on the capital projects laundry list is the Bike Path Tree Replacement situated behind the power plant where it says that 27 trees were removed (page 9 of 11 in the staff report). Not true. There were as many as 45 trees that were initially removed by Anvil's subcontractor, Coastal Tree Experts, or by city crews beginning in December of 2020. After that, Rodney Thurman with Heritage Tree

Arboricultural Consulting numbered what was remaining with blue numbers and only a few of those are remaining after Anvil clear-cut the entire 75-foot wide easement in October of 2021. Need to see his inventory list and count those trees which are now gone as well. Need Austin Della's daily reports which reported some of the trees that Anvil removed which Kevin Merk said were just shrubs and compare that with Rodney's inventory. Several more trees were removed along Quintana Road between Main Street and Morro Bay Boulevard. Will there be replacements for those as well? The mitigation measures prepared by Kevin Merk were provided on sheet G-18 of the WRF project plans but were never in place to protect trees (measure BIO-10). Need to look at the WRF Lift Station and Offsite Pipelines as-built drawings to see where the pipes were ultimately placed so replacement trees aren't planted over the pipes or in the way of the future IPR pipe extension.

The state issued Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for the WRF project made no mention of the vegetation removals, including trees, and if it had, there would certainly have been a Special Condition for restoration. The word, "tree" isn't found anywhere in that CDP and the CDP did not permit the WRF pipeline construction aspect at all. Can staff provide written documentation that all bases were covered or did the city violate the California Coastal Act?

Sincerely,
Paul F Donnelly
Morro Bay, CA.



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