

**MEMORANDUM**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES**  
**COUNTY OF PLACER**

TO: **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

DATE: **MARCH 21, 2006**

FROM: *J* **JAMES DURFEE**

SUBJECT: **APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH JONES AND STOKES FOR PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE REGIONAL WASTEWATER PROJECT**

**ACTION REQUESTED/RECOMMENDATION:** Approve an Agreement with Jones and Stokes in an amount not to exceed \$996,199 for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Regional Wastewater Project, and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement.

**BACKGROUND:**

The County has worked since 1998 to secure funding for the development of a regional sewer system that would transport wastewater from the Auburn area to a state of the art wastewater treatment facility in Lincoln. Congressman Doolittle has prioritized this project, resulting in appropriations totaling approximately \$7 million in federal grants, and further authorizations for future funding totaling \$35 million. In addition, the County and the City of Lincoln have both utilized development agreements to have critical infrastructure sized to accommodate future regional flows.

Planning for the Regional Project has progressed with preliminary studies to determine wastewater flows, preliminary routing analyses and feasibility studies. At this point, environmental review pursuant to both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) must be completed before design and construction of the pipelines can proceed.

Environmental review for this project will include a combined Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the entire Regional Pipeline and the closure of the Auburn and SMD No. 1 Treatment Plants. The scope also includes preparation of stand-alone Negative Declarations and Findings of No Significant Impact for the closures of the Applegate, Newcastle and SMD No. 3 Treatment Plants. These three projects, while part of the overall regional strategy, each stands alone and functions without construction of the Regional Pipeline. Separate review is, therefore appropriate. Because the projects are linked to the overall Regional Project, staff recommends combining these three documents with the preparation of the EIR/EIS in one scope of work.

Staff recently completed a Request for Proposals, (RFP) process to identify the best-qualified consulting firm to perform the required environmental review. Based on the RFP process, the firm of Jones and Stokes was the highest ranked firm. Staff subsequently negotiated an agreement with Jones and Stokes to perform the requested work for an amount not to exceed \$996,166. The contract is available for review at the Clerk of the Board's Office. In order to proceed, your Board's approval of the agreement will be required.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE:** Preparation of the environmental documents included in the scope of work is intended to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Protection Act.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Regional Wastewater Project is estimated to cost approximately \$155 Million Dollars. Completion of the project is dependent upon Federal assistance of \$90 Million Dollars. To date, Congress has appropriated approximately \$7 million dollars for planning and environmental review. Jones and Stokes proposes to complete the recommended scope of work for a fee not to exceed \$996,166. The cost of this work is fully reimbursable through EPA grant funding. Local match requirements are provided through in-kind work and local investment in the regional project. There is no direct impact to County funding.

AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OFFICE: AGREEMENT - JONES & STOKES

JD/DB

CC: COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
PROCUREMENT

T:/fac/bosmemo2006/Jones Stokes EIR.doc