

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES
COUNTY OF PLACER COUNTY

To: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Date: AUGUST 10, 2010

From:  JAMES DURFEE / WILL DICKINSON

Subject: PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY FOR SEWER MAINTENANCE DISTRICT 1

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION: No action is required. This informational item explains why Sewer Maintenance District 1 (SMD 1) in North Auburn was assessed an \$18,000 fine by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

BACKGROUND: SMD 1 provides sewer service to approximately 7,800 Equivalent Dwelling Units in the North Auburn area. Wastewater Treatment Plant 1 (Plant 1), constructed in 1961, uses processes that cannot consistently meet all current regulatory standards defined in the permit for Plant 1 approved by the RWQCB in June 2005. Violations of the discharge standards included in the permit are subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs) of \$3,000 per violation.

SMD 1 received an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (ACLC) from the RWQCB in May 2010 for six discharge violations at Plant 1 from August 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010. Each of the six discharge violations are subject to MMPs, for a total of \$18,000 in penalties. Staff reviewed the ACLC and concluded that the RWQCB correctly assessed the MMPs. Payment was remitted before the deadline of July 26, 2010.

Of the six violations included in the ACLC, two were for violations of the discharge standards for ammonia and four were for coliform. The County is currently pursuing two compliance alternatives that will allow SMD 1 to comply with its permit requirements: the SMD 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project; and the SMD 1 Regional Sewer Project that includes decommissioning Plant 1 and constructing a regional pipeline to the City of Lincoln.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE: Payment of an ACLC is not considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for the \$18,000 ACLC came from the FY 10/11 SMD 1 Operations Budget.

JD:WD:KS

AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD: ACLC

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