



REVISED

ITEM NO.
5.8

BOARD MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 9, 2023

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Keith Abercrombie
Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT: **Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into a Contract with Weber Water Resources CA, LLC., to Rehabilitate Saugus Well 2 and Find that the Proposed Action is Exempt from CEQA**

SUMMARY

Saugus Well 2 is located at 25849 ½ Railroad Ave, next to the Saugus Café. It was drilled in 1988 into the Saugus Aquifer Formation and remained in production until 1997 when it was removed from production due to perchlorate contamination. Saugus Well 2 was brought back online in 2011 after construction of the Saugus Perchlorate Treatment Facility, which treats water from both Saugus Well 2 and Saugus Well 1. In 2012, Saugus Well 2 was rehabilitated with mechanical and chemical development and outfitted with a liner casing due to holes that had formed in the original well casing. The well has remained in almost constant operation since the rehabilitation. However, over the past several years pumping capacity has decreased significantly going from 1,100 gallons per minute (gpm) in 2012 to the current flow rate of 700 gpm. A 2022 downhole video of the well revealed significant plugging of well screen intervals. A complete downhole rehabilitation with mechanical and chemical development is being recommended to bring the well back to its full design capacity.

DISCUSSION

The continued operation of Saugus Well 2 has been identified as a crucial containment measure to protect the drinking water aquifer. Restoring the well output is critical to the efficient operation of the containment measures in limiting the migration of the perchlorate plume within the Saugus Aquifer Formation. In addition, the growth on the intake sections of the well screen has led to failed raw water quality bacteriological samples, which requires the well to be taken offline, to be flushed to waste and to be retested before returning to service. The rehabilitation of the well will address both the capacity and bacteriological issues within Saugus Well 2.

SCVWA solicited Richard C Slade and Associates (RCS), Consulting Groundwater Geologists, to develop the Technical Specifications for Well Rehabilitation and to aid in bid phase support. This technical document was used in the process.

The rehabilitation is a multistep process. After removing the motor, column, shaft, and pump from the well, it will undergo an initial brushing and bailing. During this process, chemical will be used to help remove biofilm from the well. After the brushing and bailing, air jetting will be used to open the well perforations further. This will be followed by an initial video inspection. Once, video confirms physical means of opening the perforations were effective, then the chemical treatment of the well will begin. Chemical treatment allows for cleaning up any material which

physical means cannot reach. There will be two rounds of chemical treatment over the period of 24 to 36 hours. During the next step, mechanical redevelopment will happen in the form of simultaneous airlifting and swabbing of the well. Then a second video of the work will take place to monitor progress. This will be followed by drawdown pump testing to confirm the new specific capacity of the rehabilitated well. At the final step of flow testing, a dynamic flowmeter survey will be conducted. Depth-discrete groundwater water quality samples will be collected at this phase too. After that is conducted, there will be a final video well survey and a static non-pumping spinner survey. Then the well will have the final disinfection before setting the pump, motor, and returning the well site to the previous condition.

The project will not result in great impact to existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features. This project complies with both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) under the following exemption and exclusion provisions. CEQA Categorical Exemption, 14 CCR Section 15301. Existing Facilities and NEPA Categorical Exclusion, Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021. B1.3 Routine Maintenance.

Using the technical documents provided by RCS, staff prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the rehabilitation of Saugus Well 2. The RFP was posted to PlanetBids on August 7, 2023. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was hosted at the well site on August 23, 2023 and the bids were due on September 7, 2023. Out of the three companies who attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting, only one submitted a bid. Staff received an estimate from Weber Water Resources in compliance with the Purchasing Policy and recommends awarding the contract to Weber Water Resources CA, LLC. in the amount of \$1,400,000.00.

Along with the rehabilitation there are related tasks which are associated with the work to be performed. There may be additional standby time by Weber Water Resources. This is because water quality must be monitored and verified as meeting National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, before discharging the water. Also, there may be costs associated with replacing worn column pipe, shaft, or other well materials once the pump is disassembled and inspected. Lastly, RCS will be assisting with ensuring the rehabilitation process is conducted according to plan and will provide a written summary of operations after completion. Below is a table outlining the costs of these tasks.

Saugus 2 Rehab and Related Tasks	Cost
Weber Water Resources Rehabilitation	\$ 1,400,000.00
Additional Standby Time (Weber)	\$ 200,000.00
Water Quality Analysis (NPDES, well samples)	\$ 5,000.00
Well column pipe, shaft, etc.	\$ 240,000.00
RCS Field Monitoring and Rehab Summary	\$ 60,000.00
Total Cost	\$ 1,905,000.00

On October 5, 2023, the Engineering and Operations Committee considered staff's recommendation to approve a resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a contract to rehabilitate Saugus Well 2 and find that the proposed action is exempt from CEQA.

STRATEGIC PLAN NEXUS

This project supports SCV Water's Strategic Plan B.5.1 – Maintain all facilities and appurtenances in a consistent fashion to achieve operational efficiency.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funds for this pilot plant study are included in the General Well Improvements CIP Budget for the current FY 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering and Operations Committee recommends that the Board of Directors **adopt the attached resolution** authorizing the General Manager to enter into a contract with Weber Water Resources CA, LLC., in the amount of \$1,400,000.00 for the Saugus Well 2 Rehabilitation and authorize the other expenditures for the project detailed above, for a grand total of \$1,905,000 and find that the proposed action is exempt from CEQA.

Attachment