



## Memorandum

Date: February 19, 2020  
To: Utilities Commission  
From: Stan Gryczko, Public Works Utilities and Operations Director  
Richard Tsai, Environmental Resources Manager  
Josie Tellers, Water Quality Coordinator  
Subject: Item 6A – Alternative Uses for Overland Flow and Pond Areas Located at the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant

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### **Recommendation**

Informational item.

*Note: On February 11, 2020 the City Council announced that they directed staff to move forward with a preliminary agreement for utilizing 155 acres of the Overland Flow Site (OLF), and Treatment Ponds (Ponds) for use as a photovoltaic generation site, which could generate up to 25 megawatts of energy. This was a reportable action from Closed Session.*

### **Discussion**

Originally provided as a consent item, this report was pulled for additional discussion on December 19, 2019. Staff requested that the commission members with questions submit those questions prior to the report coming back as a regular item for full discussion. The Commission was reminded to submit questions once more at the meeting in January. The following questions were submitted, and additional comments were also submitted to the group and have been distributed via email.

#### **For organic waste processing:**

1. Why is this a priority and what is the alternative disposal options for organic waste if this priority option is not pursued?

*Per City Council direction received on October 22, 2019, the City has entered into negotiations for a short-term organics waste flow agreement with Yolo County, and is continuing discussions with UCD for a potential partnership at UCD’s site.*

*Recommendation Language (Item 4E, October 22, 2019):*

- *Direct staff to discuss and negotiate a short-term (up to 10 years) organics waste flow agreement with Yolo County.*

- *Direct staff to continue to explore organics disposal options based on environmental and cost factors, including further discussions with UC Davis and Yolo County on partnership opportunities.*

2. How do costs compare? (my apologies if i have missed this in previous discussions)

*In the report presented to Council on October 22, 2019, Table 1.1 in Section 9 of the report has a summary of the recommended considerations for organics disposal and calculations of costs/ton.*

*As the Organics Processing Feasibility Analysis, and the Recycled Water Near-term Master Plan each had a specific focus, costs have not been compared across uses in any detail at this time.*

**For solar expansion as a priority:**

3. Approximately how many MW?
4. Would there be other buyers of electricity besides the city?
5. What are the costs?
6. Has the solar expansion option been open for competing bids through an RFO or similar (or will it be)?
7. If the wetland option were to be considered, where would the estimated cost "land"? In our water bill?

*For questions 3-7, an analysis has not been completed at this time, as the priority of the Recycled Water Master Plan Near-term report was how much recycled water would be used, not the cost of each option for re-use.*

**Original Report**

In June 2016, an Advisory Committee consisting of City staff from the Public Works, Community Development and Sustainability Departments, members of both the Natural Resources (NRC) and Open Space and Habitat Commissions (OSHC) and West Yost staff met to brainstorm water recycling goals related to water reuse alternatives once the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade was complete. Part of this workshop consisted of listing potential uses or enhancements of the City's constructed wetlands and potential alternative uses for the Treatment Ponds (Ponds) and the Overland Flow Site (OLF) once those areas were no longer required for wastewater treatment. The wetlands will continue to be managed to maintain high value habitat and further discussion will take place with the City's open space management team and others to enhance the public interaction with that area. This report will provide some detail on the limited discussions that have occurred around potential uses specifically for the Ponds and OLF areas.

### Ponds

Limited discussion occurred regarding uses for the ponds. Ideas centered around floating solar arrays, habitat uses, leasing some area to the landfill for water storage, and the current use as a stormwater runoff detention basin for the WWTP.

### Overland Flow Sites

More discussion centered around the OLF area for potential reuse. Ten options were presented during the brainstorming session - farming, habitat area, solar power, organics processing facility, public recreation, do nothing, sell the land, biosolids disposal site, grow a carbon forest (carbon sequestration) and stormwater treatment system (or additional wetlands). It was also noted that these ideas were not exclusive. For example, solar and a organics processing facility could both be located on the former OLF site. It was also mentioned that the border area of the OLF might be habitat for endangered species which would potentially require mitigation steps depending on what use was determined to be most beneficial to the City.

The majority of these discussions were captured as part of the Recycled Water Master Plan (Chapter 6, Attachment 1) evaluating short and long-term uses for the City's recycled water. This plan was presented and discussed with OSHC and NRC in April and May of 2018, and provided as an informational item to the Utilities Commission via email in June of 2019. Input and recommendation the OSHC and the NRC was incorporated to the Plan. The Recycled Water Master Plan – Near Term Report was presented to and approved by City Council on June 18, 2019.

### Current Use of Ponds and OLF

The Ponds are used for stormwater storage, except for the two smaller former aerated ponds. These ponds have been formally decommissioned with the State and are ready to be used as recycled water storage for use by the landfill.

The OLF area is fallow and the City does not have any immediate plans for the area.

### Attachments

1. Chapter 6 of the Recycled Water Master Plan, presented to Council on June 18, 2019
2. Organics Processing Facility Feasibility Analysis, Table 1.1, City Alternative Projects Summary