

City Manager's Report
March 12, 2019 City Council Meeting
Prepared by: Pierre Rivas, Development Services Director



Item #: 12.3

Subject: Adopt a resolution:

1. Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program prepared for the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) for the WWTP pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
2. Approving the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) for the WWTP (CIP #416053); and
3. Direct staff to file a Notice of Determination with the El Dorado County Clerk and the State Office of Planning and Research.

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to install and operate a solar photovoltaic system at the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility WRF to reduce the amount of electricity purchased from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) and realize increased energy savings and a reduction in environmental impacts through the utilization of renewable energy sources.

Background: On November 24, 2015, the City entered into a contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. (JCI), to develop both water and energy efficiency projects for the City. Following a review of the City's electrical needs to operate the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), a 2.88-acre portion of the plant site was determined to be suitable to install and operate a Photovoltaic (PV) system. On March 28, 2017, the City entered into a performance agreement with JCI to perform specified projects identified in a scope of work that included a solar photovoltaic facility for the WRF. The project objectives are to generate sufficient electricity on-site through a renewable energy technology (solar photovoltaic panels) to allow the City to achieve an approximately 60% or greater reduction in the energy required for municipal wastewater treatment operations. A detailed analysis confirmed that the Solar PV project for the WRF will result in energy savings of approximately 1,385,000 kWh per year. During Year 1, this project would result in projected electrical energy cost savings of approximately \$166,000.

This energy efficiency project will significantly advance the City's mission of reducing its demand for traditional electricity generation thereby reducing its impact on the environment while providing improved services more efficiently.

The City is proposing to finance the project through the Small Community Grant and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan programs administered through the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance.

Discussion:

Project Description: The Solar Photovoltaic (PV) for the WWTP (Project) consists of clearing an approximately 2.88-acre site of existing vegetation in preparation for installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system. The existing vegetation, primarily dense tree cover, would be removed using mechanical equipment and manual tools. The PV system would be installed on a ground-mounted racking system on piers that would be driven below ground surface. Grading

would occur throughout the approximately 2.88-acre project area to a maximum depth of 6 inches. A maximum of 300 piers will be percussion-driven throughout the project site. Each pier is 6 x 8.5 inches wide and 12 feet long.

The constructed PV system will be connected to the site's existing 2000-amp electrical switchgear system. The PV system will generate useable electricity using solar energy and will be interconnected to the WRF's main electrical service in the north electrical room.

Environmental Review:

The proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) for the WWTP Project was determined to be a project in accordance with Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and therefore subject to an environmental review. Staff prepared an Initial Study and determined that although the proposed Project could have an effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect on the environment resulting from implementation of the Project as proposed and as mitigated, therefore, staff prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (Attachment 2).

In addition, the Project was subject to include tribal consultation pursuant to AB 52 for any project where a negative declaration is filed after July 1, 2015. To comply, project notifications were sent to all tribal groups who have submitted requests to the City to receive project notifications. Tribal groups were given a 30-day period to request consultation in accordance with AB 52. The City received one comment from United Auburn Indian Community regarding inadvertent discoveries of artifacts or cultural resources. Also, a "Cultural Resources Inventory Report" was prepared by InContext for the Project. No cultural resources on the project site were found following a site survey. Mitigation measures are included to address inadvertent discoveries of archeological artifacts or human remains during construction (Mitigation Measures CR-1, CR-2, and CR-3).

Following completion of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), the document was submitted to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for distribution through the State Clearinghouse which commenced a 30-day review period beginning on January 30, 2019 and ending on February 28, 2019.

Comments were received from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVWQCB) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The comments received are included in the IS/MND as Attachments C and D respectively.

- The CVWQCB is responsible for ensuring the protection of surface water and groundwater quality. References were made to necessary adherence to the City's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Permit and the requirement for preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The CVWQCB also mentioned other potential permitting requirements that do not apply to this project (such as dewatering permits or a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permits). The identified requirement for the development and implementation of a SWPPP will be included as a part of the grading permit process and the requirements during subsequent land disturbing activities. This requirement has been added to the final IS/MND. The requirement for preparation and implementation of a SWPPP has been added to Mitigation Measure GEO-1.

- The SWRCB requested that:
 - ✓ The Project title be revised to match that on the City's CWSRF project application. It is the policy of the SWRCB that the project title used in the Financial Assistance Application for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund match the title for the project used in the CEQA documents. The Project title on the IS/MND is changed from "Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Clean Water State Revolving Loan Solar Photovoltaic Facility" to read "Solar Photovoltaic (PV) for the WWTP".
 - ✓ That the City share any impact assessments and/or permits required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFG). This has not been necessary, since no comments regarding the project have been received from CDFG.

A mitigation monitoring program contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with CEQA Guideline Section 15097 to ensure adopted mitigation measures are implemented.

Staff is recommending adoption of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program by the City Council in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Options:

1. Approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) for the WWTP (CIP #416053) and approve said project as recommended by staff.
2. Delay the adoption of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program and direct staff to perform additional environmental review.

Cost: None

Budget Impact:

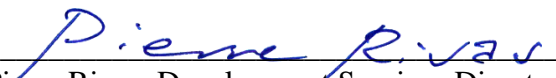
Staff's recommendations do not include a budgetary action. Construction of the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) for the WWTP (CIP #416053) will be financed through the California Small Community Grant and Clean Water State Revolving Loan programs, both administered by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance. All funding appropriations will be brought to Council at a later date to address contracts for both construction management and construction.

Recommendation:

Adopt a resolution:

1. Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program prepared for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
2. Approving the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) for the WWTP (CIP #416053); and
3. Direct staff to file a Notice of Determination with the El Dorado County Clerk and the State Office of Planning and Research.


M. Cleve Morris, City Manager


Pierre Rivas, Development Services Director

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study