



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

DATE ISSUED:

REPORT NO:

ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Committee  
Meeting of March 17, 2010

SUBJECT: Amendment 2 with UCSD for the Evaluation of Anthropogenic Impacts  
on the San Diego Coastal Ecosystem

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Council is requested to approve a phase-funded Second Amendment with UCSD for professional services to monitor the health of the San Diego kelp forest ecosystem and authorize an amount not to exceed \$1,499,721.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

- Adopt an Ordinance approving a phase-funded Second Amendment to the Agreement with the University of California, San Diego for the Evaluation of San Diego's Coastal Ecosystem for an amount not to exceed \$1,499,721.
- Authorize an FY 2010 expenditure of \$344,516 from Wastewater Fund 700001 for Phase 5 of the aforementioned Amendment.

**SUMMARY:**

In response to concerns of the public and environmental groups, the Metropolitan Wastewater (now Public Utilities) Department worked with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) of the University of California, San Diego to convene a panel of scientific experts to evaluate the City's Ocean Monitoring Program. The purpose of this scientific review was to insure that the program provides the necessary information with which to evaluate the local ocean ecology and to address emerging issues of concern. The scientific panel concluded that the existing ocean monitoring program for the Pt. Loma region did an excellent job evaluating the regulatory compliance parameters for which it was designed, but that it could be enhanced to include additional environmental parameters that could help to discern both anthropogenic (human caused) and natural impacts to the regional San Diego coastal ecosystem.

It is noted that the City's Ocean Monitoring Program is conducted as a requirement of two National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits that have been issued to the City of San Diego by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board and USEPA, including: (1) Permit No. CA0107409, governing the Pt. Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (PLWTP), and (2) Permit No. CA0109045, governing the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant (SBWRP). The monitoring programs required by these NPDES permits were revised most recently in 2003 and 2006 for the PLWTP and SBWRP, respectively. Renewal and additional modification of the PLWTP permit and monitoring program is currently underway and is expected in Spring 2010. In addition to core and regional monitoring requirements, the modified

permits require the City to conduct special studies of additional environmental parameters on a broader coastal scale as were recommended by the above scientific review.

Continued monitoring and protection of the coastal marine environment are the main objectives of the City's Ocean Monitoring Program and is of great importance to the citizens of the region. In order to achieve these enhanced monitoring goals in the most cost-effective and scientifically sound manner, the City requires professional services for special projects and on-going scientific assistance that will follow the recommendations of the panel of experts and study the broader scale of questions regarding the San Diego coastal ecosystem.

Under this Second Amendment, SIO will conduct studies monitoring the status of the San Diego region's kelp forests as part of the City's enhanced ocean monitoring requirements for the PLWTP and SBWRP. Specifically, SIO scientists will continue long-term monitoring studies to define the impacts or potential impacts of treated wastewater discharge on the health and stability of the local kelp forest ecosystem off Point Loma, La Jolla and in North County relative to other environmental parameters. This work will build upon previous long-term studies funded by the City (~1992 to present), and contribute to the regional approach emphasized in the scientific review of the City's program, as well as to the integration of monitoring efforts along the entire San Diego coastline. The project will continue to provide important information relevant to maintaining the City's 301(h) waiver from secondary treatment for the PLWTP, and it will also serve as a critical link between the City's core monitoring efforts focused in offshore waters and potential new requirements for more nearshore habitats associated with the Marine Life Protection Act.

The projected term of the contract will be from May 2010 through May 2013 and appropriated as follows: Phase 5 (FY2010) \$344,516; Phase 6 (FY2011) \$365,649; Phase 7 (FY2012) \$382,897; and Phase 8 (FY2013) \$406,659.

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING:

This agreement is subject to the City's Equal Opportunity Contracting (San Diego Ordinance No. 18173, Section 22.2701 through 22.2708) and Non-Discrimination in Contracting Ordinance (San Diego Municipal Code Sections 22.3501 through 22.3517).

#### FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The entire expense will use current and future appropriations from Public Utilities Department, Wastewater Fund 700001, in the following manner: Phase 5 (FY2010) \$344,516; Phase 6 (FY2011) \$365,649; Phase 7 (FY2012) \$382,897; and Phase 8 (FY2013) \$406,659.

#### PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION:

Original Agreement adopted June 22, 2006 (R-301549); Amendment 1 (no cost) approved October 22, 2006 (C-13927).

#### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

There is no change or impact anticipated to communities and the public for continuing current service level. This item is subject to Charter Section 99 requirements (10 day public noticing).

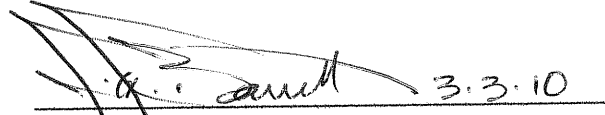
#### KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

The Regents of the University of California, San Diego. In addition, this Second Amendment would allow for the continued monitoring of the San Diego region's kelp forests which provides

important information relevant to maintaining the City's 301(h) waiver from secondary treatment for the PLWTP, and serves as a critical link between the City's core monitoring efforts focused in offshore waters and potential new requirements for more nearshore habitats associated with the Marine Life Protection Act.



Ann Sasaki  
Assistant Public Utilities Director



J. M. Barrett  
Director of Public Utilities

Attachments:

1. Amendment 2 to the Agreement with UCSD (draft)
2. Resolution R-301549 authorizing original Agreement with UCSD
3. Mayoral Action C-13927 authorizing Amendment 1 to the Agreement with UCSD (no cost)
4. Sole Source Request