

Staff Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Shad Chittock, Treated Water Superintendent
Chip Close, Director of Water Operations

DATE: October 14, 2026

**SUBJECT: Lake Wildwood Clarifier Gearbox Replacement Contract Amendment
(Consent)**

OPERATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an increase of \$40,000 to the existing contract with MarTech Mechanical Analysis & Repair, Inc. for the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant Clarifier A Gearbox Replacement Project; and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate contract amendment.

BACKGROUND

On August 26, 2026, the Board of Directors authorized the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant Clarifier A Gearbox Replacement project and approved a capital project expenditure of \$164,786.87. The project was initiated to address the deteriorated condition of Clarifier A with a goal of restoring the equipment to reliable operating condition.

MarTech Mechanical Analysis & Repair, Inc. was authorized to perform the necessary disassembly, inspection, repair, and replacement work. During this inspection, additional damage and wear were identified that could not reasonably have been determined prior to disassembly. Specifically, the mixing shaft for Clarifier A has experienced significant wear. The extent of the wear is such that the replacement bearings and bushings specified as part of the original repair will not properly fit on the existing shaft.

Proceeding with the gearbox replacement while leaving the worn mixing shaft in place would not provide the desired reliability of the clarifier and could result in premature failure of the newly installed components. Replacing the mixing shaft while the clarifier is already disassembled provides an opportunity to address the

additional deficiency as part of the current project and avoid the need for a separate future repair requiring additional mobilization, disassembly, and associated costs.

MarTech Mechanical has indicated that it can source and replace the Clarifier A mixing shaft while the unit remains disassembled. The additional work is expected to increase the project cost by \$40,000 and is anticipated to extend the project schedule by approximately four days.

Because the condition of the mixing shaft was not apparent until the equipment was disassembled, the additional work was not included in the original project scope or contract amount.

CONTINUED NEED FOR REPAIRS

Staff recognizes that the long-term use of the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant may be affected by completion of the E. George Intertie Pipeline project. However, the design, permitting, and construction of the intertie are anticipated to take five or more years to complete.

In the interim, the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant remains an essential component of the District's drinking water infrastructure. Clarifier A is a critical treatment process component necessary for reliable operation of the plant and continued delivery of treated drinking water to customers in the Lake Wildwood and Penn Valley communities.

At this time, no alternate drinking water supplies are available to fully replace the capacity of the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant. Consequently, the District must continue to maintain the plant and its critical equipment in a safe, reliable, and operable condition until the E. George Intertie Pipeline is completed and an alternative source of supply is available.

Completing the mixing shaft replacement as part of the current gearbox repair will allow the District to address the newly identified condition while the clarifier is already out of service and disassembled. This approach will restore the equipment more comprehensively and reduce the likelihood of requiring another significant repair to the same equipment in the near term.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

On August 26, 2026, the Board authorized \$164,786.87 from the capital project budget for the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant Clarifier A Gearbox Replacement project.

The original project budget and contract did not include a contingency for unforeseen conditions that might be identified after disassembly of the equipment. The additional mixing shaft replacement will increase the project cost by \$40,000.

An analysis of the funds available in Fund 15 shows adequate funding to cover the escalation.