

Staff Report

TO: Board of Directors

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

DATE: August 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant Clarifier Gearbox Replacement, NID Contract No. OP 2026-06 (Consent)

OPERATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

Award the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant Clarifier A Gearbox Replacement Project to MarTech Mechanical Analysis & Repair Inc. of Lodi, CA, in the amount of \$164,786.87, and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents.

BACKGROUND

Clarifier A at the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant (LWW Plant) was originally constructed in 1970 and refurbished in 1998 to extend its service life. Through ongoing preventative maintenance, the clarifier has remained operational well beyond its expected 20-year service life.

In 2021, the Clarifier gearbox experienced a clutch mechanism failure, rendering the unit inoperable. As a temporary repair, NID Operations and Maintenance personnel welded the gearbox and motor shaft together. Although this repair was intended as a short-term solution, the clarifier has continued to operate in this condition since 2021.

The interim repair now needs to be permanently repaired. If the clarifier encounters an obstruction, the clutch is designed to disengage and protect the motor and associated equipment. With the mechanism welded, the motor is not protected if an obstruction occurs. The proposed contract will repair and replace the necessary components to restore the motor, gearbox, and clutch assembly to their original operating standards.

SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

The original manufacturer of the clarifier, Lowprest Water Treatment Company, has since gone out of business. Staff solicited multiple vendors for quotations; however, MarTech was identified as the only vendor that continues to support and provide parts and service for Lowprest equipment. Based on the specialized nature of the equipment and the lack of other qualified vendors able to support the existing Lowprest system, staff recommends awarding this project on a sole-source basis to MarTech.

CONTINUED NEED FOR REPAIRS

Staff recognizes that the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant may eventually become obsolete upon completion of the intertie project to connect Lake Wildwood to the Elizabeth George Treatment Plant. However, the design and construction of the intertie is anticipated to take five or more years to complete.

In the interim, Clarifier A remains a critical component of the drinking water infrastructure serving the Lake Wildwood and Penn Valley communities. No alternate drinking water supplies are currently available to these areas. Maintaining the clarifier in a safe and reliable operating condition is therefore essential to ensuring continued water service until the E. George Intertie Pipeline is completed.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

The 2026 Capital Improvement Project Budget includes \$250,000 for continued repair and replacement work at the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant to maintain its operation until the E. George Intertie Pipeline is completed. To date, approximately \$50,000 has been expended for intertie easement procurement. This leaves approximately \$200,000 available within the approved budget to complete the necessary repairs to Clarifier A

Attachments: None