



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 24-320, **Version:** 1

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Adopt a Resolution to Accept and Authorize the City Manager to Execute all Documents for a San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) Grant in the amount of \$3,734,489 and Execute All Documents for Phase 2 of the San Leandro Treatment Wetland for Pollution Reduction, Habitat Enhancement, and Shoreline Resiliency Project

### **COUNCIL PRIORITY**

- Infrastructure
- Sustainability & Resiliency

### **SUMMARY**

The City of San Leandro's Water Pollution Control Plant plans to repurpose an underutilized 6.9-acre wastewater retention pond on site into a multi-benefit treatment wetland. The City received a grant from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) for planning and design in 2018 and is now ready to move into the construction phase of the project. At its Commission meeting on June 14, 2024, SFBRA awarded the City a grant for \$3,734,489 to support the construction of the project.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the City Council accept and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents for grant funds in the amount of \$3,734,489 from the SFBRA for Phase 2 of the San Leandro Treatment Wetland for Pollution Reduction, Habitat Enhancement and Shoreline Resiliency project. This action is required by SFBRA to complete the grant agreement and receive the funds.

### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the Treatment Wetland project is to remove nitrogen and other contaminants from a portion of the WPCP discharge water. In addition, the project will include enhancement of wetland habitat along the San Francisco Bay Trail for educational opportunities, and demonstration of cost-effective nature-based solutions for contaminant removal. The project involves installing a modular nitrification system to convert ammonia from secondary treated wastewater into nitrate. Additionally, it involves repurposing an underutilized 6.9-acre wastewater retention pond into a multi-benefit treatment wetland. The nitrified effluent will undergo polishing in the treatment wetland to remove the nitrate and other pollutants before being discharged into San Francisco Bay via an existing discharge pipe.

In April 2018, the City of San Leandro received a \$538,926 Measure AA grant from the SFBRA to support permitting and design of the project. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City prepared the "San Leandro Water Pollution Control Plant Treatment Wetland and Shoreline Resilience Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration" (MND), which Council adopted on April 2, 2024. During project planning, the City received authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and received a new individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination

System (NPDES) permit on February 9, 2022.

### **Analysis**

The City, along with other treatment plants, will soon be required by the State Water Resources Control Board to reduce nitrogen in water discharged to San Francisco Bay. This project will be the first step in accomplishing this goal and is one of the first in the Bay Area to do so using a nature-based solution that treats the water and provides additional educational and habitat benefits.

The City was also awarded a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund. Because Measure AA are local funds, this grant will serve as part of the required match for this grant.

### **Previous Actions**

October 15, 2018 -Reso 2018-30 RESOLUTION of the City of San Leandro City Council to Accept Grant Funds of \$538,926 from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority for San Leandro's Treatment Wetland for Pollution Reduction, Habitat Enhancement, and Shoreline Resiliency Project (Project No. RA-007)

October 17, 2019- Reso 2019-160 RESOLUTION of the City of San Leandro City Council to Approve and Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Consulting Services Agreement with Terraphase Engineering, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$789,036 for Design and Permitting Services of a New Treatment Wetland at the Water Pollution Control Plant; Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Amendments Up to 20% (or \$157,807) and an Appropriation of the Water Pollution Control Plant Enterprise Fund Balance in the Amount of \$501,917 for Fiscal Year 2019-20

April 4, 2024- Reso 2024-029 Adopt a Resolution to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the San Leandro Water Pollution Control Plant Treatment Wetland and Shoreline Resilience Project in Accordance with the Requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

### **Applicable General Plan Policies**

- Policy EH-1.8 Sea Level Rise. Consider the effects of projected sea level rise in the design and planning of all development, recreational improvements, and infrastructure along the San Leandro shoreline.
  - Action EH-1.8. A: Adaptation Plans. Develop long-term adaptation plans which minimize the potential for coastal flooding on public and private properties near the San Leandro shoreline. Periodically evaluate the risk to homes, businesses, parks, and other features and take steps to protect or fortify these areas to reduce damage potential.
- Policy EH-4.3 Interagency Coordination. Coordinate water quality planning, regulation, and monitoring with other public agencies that are involved in water resource management. Establish partnerships and task forces with these agencies and with nearby cities as needed to develop programs addressing issues that cross jurisdictional lines.

### **Environmental Review**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of San Leandro prepared the

“San Leandro Water Pollution Control Plant Treatment Wetland and Shoreline Resilience Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration” (MND). The City adopted the Final MND on April 2, 2024.

### **Financial Impacts**

Approval of this item will appropriate grant funds of \$3,734,489 from the SFBRA for the San Leandro Water Pollution Control Plant Treatment Wetland Project and serve as a local match for the US EPA grant. The grant will be on a reimbursement basis, with the City requesting quarterly reimbursements from SFBRA for work completed to date. There are sufficient funds in the Water Pollution Control Enterprise Fund to carry these expenses.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

***Attachment A:** Resolution to Authorize the City Manager to Accept a Grant for \$3,734,489 From the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority for San Leandro’s Treatment Wetland for Pollution Reduction, Habitat Enhancement, and Shoreline Resiliency*

***Attachment B:** San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Certification of Adoption of Resolutions San Leandro Treatment Wetland for Pollution Reduction, Habitat Enhancement, and Shoreline Resiliency: Phase 2*

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