

AGENDA ITEM #: _____

DATE: June 22, 2020

CAR #: 2020-6972



CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

SUBJECT: Approve First Amendment to the Effluent Discharge Agreement with Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District.

STAFF PRESENTER(S): Barbara Chappell, Deputy Public Works Director
Gretchen Erwin, Water Resources & Sustainability Manager

OTHER PRESENTER(S): N/A

Summary: The city would like to extend the agreement with Buckeye Water Conservation Drainage District (BWCD) which allows the city to discharge up to 1 MGD of effluent in the BWCD canal from the Goodyear Water Reclamation Facility on an as-needed basis for an additional year. Only water that cannot be sent to the recharge facilities for operational purposes is discharged to the canal.

Recommendation:

Approve and authorize execution of the First Amendment to the Effluent Discharge Agreement with the Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District.

Fiscal Impact: The ability to discharge is already in place through the earlier completion of the Buckeye WCDD Discharge CIP project installing the related discharge valve. There will be no fees issued by BWCD for the discharge.

Background and Previous Actions

Class A+ effluent from the Goodyear Water Reclamation Facility is typically pumped north from the plant to the Soil Aquifer Treatment (SAT) facility site at the northwest corner of Yuma Road and Estrella Parkway where it is recharged for Long-Term Storage Credits. Due to operational issues, there are times when a portion of the effluent cannot be pumped to the SAT recharge facility. Historically, the discharge that could not be pumped to the SAT recharge facility had been discharged to the Gila River. However, because levels of naturally occurring metals in the discharge had been slightly elevated, staff sought to avoid potential water quality issues in the Gila River by finding an alternative to discharging to the Gila River. To that end, the City entered into an agreement with the Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District to discharge effluent into its canals.

The original agreement approved by Council on June 24, 2019 had a term of one year with the option of five one-year renewals. The city would like to extend the agreement for one additional year.

Staff Analysis

It is the city's policy to recharge all effluent in the SAT site to earn Long-Term Storage Credits in support of the city's Designation of Assured Water Supply. However, due to operational issues, there are challenges in delivering all of the water to the SAT site. In order to avoid water quality issues and possibly violations by discharging to the Gila River, the city would like to discharge any excess to the BWCDD canal. The discharge point will stay in place for discharge on an as needed basis.

Attachments

First Amendment to Effluent Discharge Agreement