

# Staff Report

**TO:** Board of Harbor Commissioners

**FROM:** John Moren, Director of Operations

**THRU:** James B. Pruet, General Manager

**DATE:** May 17, 2023

**SUBJECT:** San Mateo Resource Conservation District Pillar Point Harbor Water Quality Update and Proposal for Continued Assistance for Board Consideration

**Requested Action/Issue:**

Receive an updated presentation from the San Mateo Resource Conservation District and consider their proposal for continued assistance in implementing water quality projects, coordination with the Water Board with respect to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations, education and outreach, technical assistance, and identification of unknown sources of contaminants into Pillar Point Harbor.

**Recommendation/Motion:**

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Board receive an updated presentation and consider a proposal for a not-to-exceed amount of \$130,000 for a period of 2 years, fiscal years 2023/24 and 2024/25, to fund the San Mateo Resource Conservation District for continued support and work associated with water quality projects, coordination with respect to TMDL regulations, education and outreach, technical assistance, and identification of unknown sources of contaminants into Pillar Point Harbor.

**Policy Implications:**

Consistent with District's goal to assure the public is provided with safe, well maintained public facilities and ensure the marine environment is protected.

**Background:**

Since 2002, Pillar Point Harbor (PPH) has been included on a statewide list of contaminated water bodies due to its high fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) concentrations. FIB are indicative of pathogens harmful to humans and can come from any warm blooded animal including pets, humans and wildlife. This contamination continues to cause beach postings that warn the public that the water is contaminated and not suitable for contact.

In 2008, RCD initiated the PPH Source Identification Project (RCD Pollution Study) to help characterize sources of bacterial contamination in the harbor. To follow up on this study, agreements were adopted between the District and RCD to further address this

issue and other water quality concerns by monitoring various water quality parameters within PPH as well as storm water outfalls flowing into the harbor from upland.

The District Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) approved entering into an Agreement with the Resource Conservation District (RCD) on May 18, 2016 for a three year period and subsequently approved continuing the relationship thru FY 2023.

RCD is requesting the Board to consider approving their new proposal for an amount not to exceed \$130,000 for a period of 2 years, Fiscal year 2023/24 and 2024/25, to continue Program Management, implementing water quality projects, coordination with the Water Board with respect to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations, education and outreach, technical assistance, and identification of unknown sources of contaminants.

**Summary/Recommendation:**

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board receive an updated presentation and consider a proposal for a not-to-exceed amount of \$130,000 for a period of 2 years Fiscal year 2023/24 and 2024/25 to fund the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District for continued support and work associated with water quality projects, coordination with respect to TMDL regulations, education and outreach, technical assistance, and identification of unknown sources of contaminants.

**Attachments:**

- 1) [RCD PPT Update Presentation](#)
- 2) RCD Proposal for Continued Assistance 2023-2025