

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: MIKE PRINZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SUBREGIONAL  
OPERATIONS  
WATER DEPARTMENT  
SUBJECT: SUBREGIONAL BIOSOLIDS PROCESS OVERVIEW

AGENDA ACTION: STUDY SESSION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department that the Council hold a study session to brief the Council on the Subregional Biosolids Process. This item is for information only and no action will be taken.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff will present an informational overview of the Subregional Biosolids Process in order to provide a framework and operational context for items that come before the City Council. This item is related to Council Goal #3: Provide Leadership for Environmental Initiatives.

BACKGROUND

The Laguna Treatment Plant (LTP) currently produces approximately 27,000 wet tons of residual biosolids annually, which is a process component of virtually all municipal wastewater treatment plants worldwide.

With respect to the LTP, approximately 2/3 of this material is land applied annually as an agricultural soil amendment at various locations within Sonoma County. The majority of the remainder is processed through the Subregional Compost Facility located adjacent to the LTP, with a relatively small fraction sent to local landfills for alternative daily cover. Of these final dispositions, land application is optimal due to the relatively low unit disposal cost, and the benefit land application of biosolids presents to local, conventional farming practices.

Due to significant reductions in available acreage for land application attributable in part to California Tiger Salamander habitat constraints, staff has been investigating additional land application sites for potential lease and/or purchase.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

None.

ANALYSIS

An anticipated future Council item will propose a funding strategy to facilitate the purchase of a portion of agricultural land for biosolids land application purposes. This study session is intended to provide general background information as well as specific land application information applicable to the the future funding strategy agenda item.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Study Session is for information only and no action is being taken. There is, therefore, no fiscal impact from the Study Session.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On October 15, 2015, the Board of Public Utilities conducted a study session to be briefed on the Subregional Biosolids Process and give direction to staff. The BPU directed staff to continue evaluating opportunities for lease or purchase of additional biosolids land application sites.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

CONTACT

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