

# Waiver of Competitive Bidding Process and Sole Source of Professional Service Agreements for the Subcontracting of Laboratory Services

*BPU Items 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4*

December 5, 2024  
Board of Public Utilities

Robert C. Wilson, Laboratory Supervisor



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# Laguna Environmental Laboratory (LEL)

- LEL was established in 1968 with primary function of physical and chemical measurements of wastewater
- Expansion to add a broader scope of analytical testing in 2000
- Staffing includes laboratory aides, laboratory analysts, a programmer, and management for a total of 14 people
- Staff processed 11k Samples for a total of 32k analytes in FY 23/24

# Customer Service

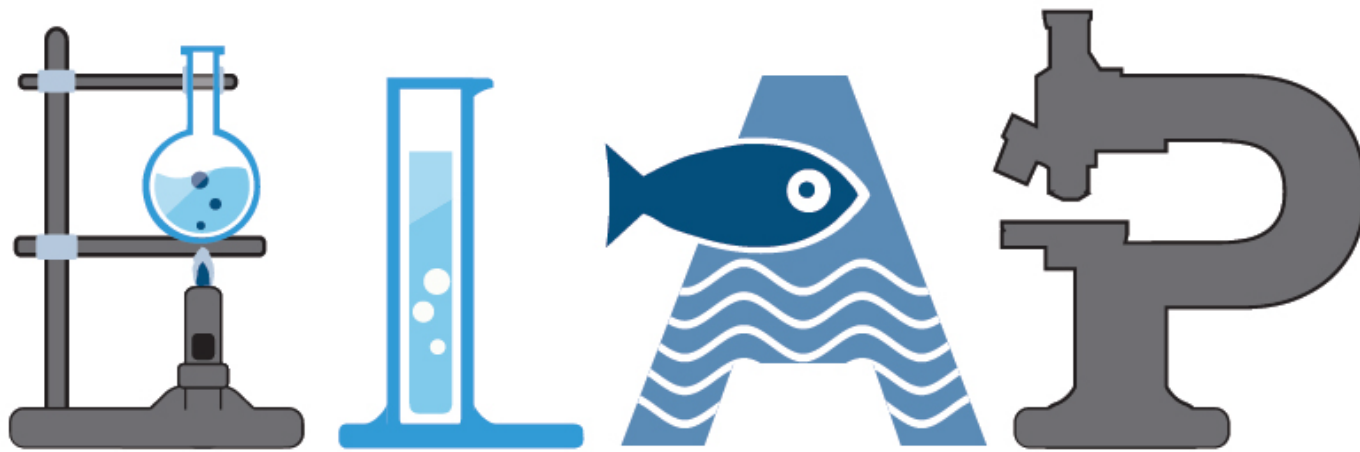
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- Analyze and upload data for drinking water, wastewater, and biosolids reporting
- Work with clients to provide sample assistance and bottle kits
- Support compliance with Contaminants of Emerging Concerns (CECs)
  - PFAS
  - Microplastics
  - Lithium



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# Scope of Services through ELAP

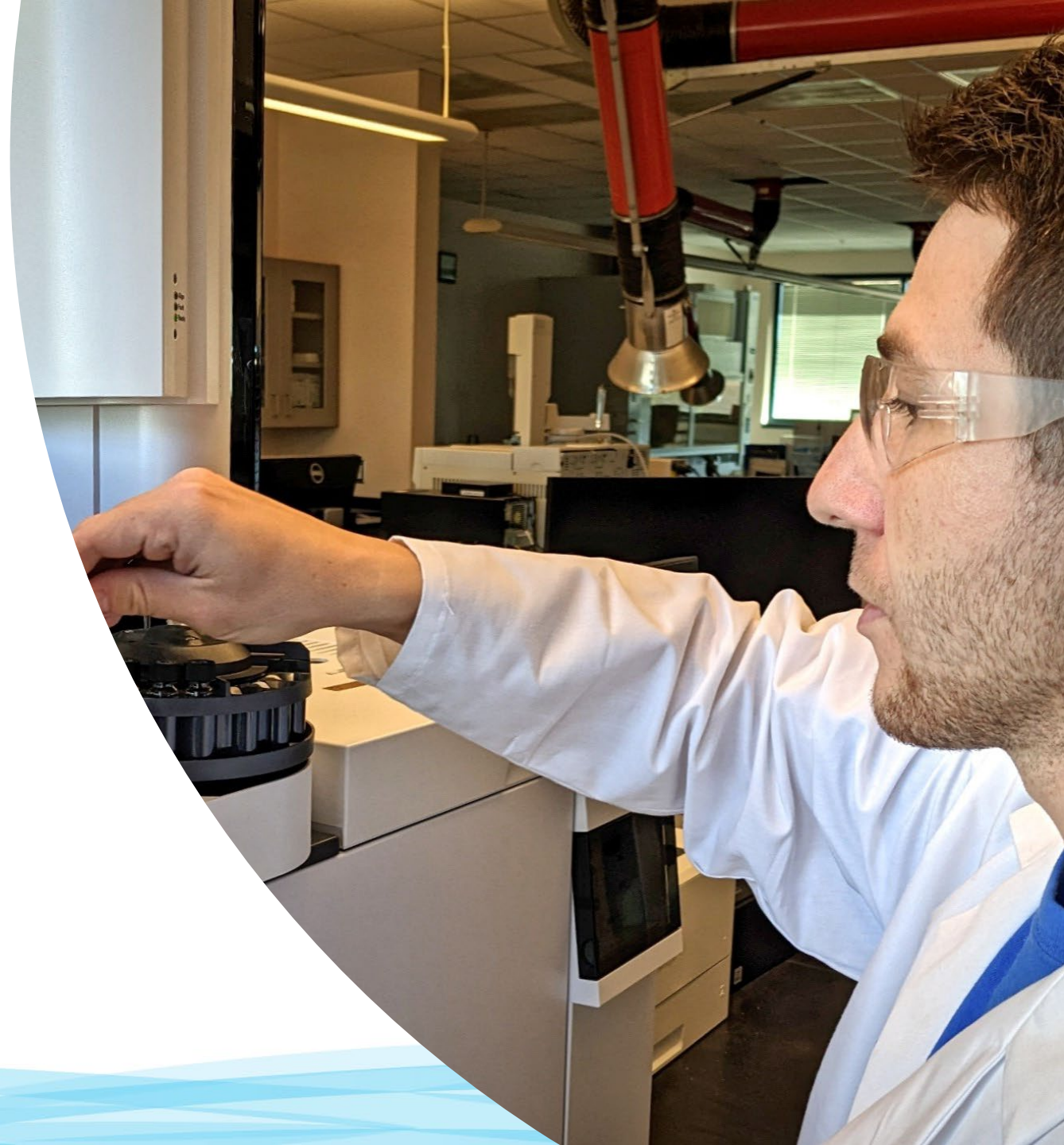


**Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program**  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

- Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP)
  - Accreditation body for environmental laboratories in California
- Establishes Scope of Services for 346 analytes.

# Additional Needs

- Some analytes are beyond the Scope of Services due to instrumentation limitations at the LEL. These include but are not limited to:
  - Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
  - Acute and Chronic Toxicity
  - Dioxin
  - Hexavalent Chromium
- Samples collected by Police and Fire need procedures beyond the scope provided by the LEL.





# Equipment/Staffing Constraints

- Periodically, unexpected surges in sample volumes, staffing issues, or contamination/equipment failure may require temporary sub-contracting of samples to third party laboratories.
  - Tubbs and Glass Fires
  - Recent Retirements



# Subcontract Environmental Laboratories

- By collaborating with other laboratories, the LEL can handle higher volumes of samples or projects, especially during peak times, without the need to invest in additional infrastructure or staffing
- Contracting with other laboratories helps reduce operational risks by ensuring backup support in case of equipment failure, thereby maintaining consistent service quality and reliability

# Enthalpy Analytical



- Specialized commercial environmental analytical chemistry lab with a focus on emerging contaminants including PFAS.
- National network of accredited environmental laboratories with a local laboratory located in El Dorado Hills.
- Accreditation thorough ELAP, NELAC, DOD and ISO-17025:2017.
- Adheres to methods as established by the US EPA.



# Recommendation

It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water that the Board of Public Utilities, by motion, waive competitive bidding and authorize the award of a sole source Professional Services Agreement with Enthalpy Analytical for analytical services in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.



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# Questions

# Item 8.3 – Waiver of Competitive Bidding Process and Sole Source of Professional Services Agreement with Vitisystems, Inc. DBA Caltest Analytical Laboratory for Analytical Services



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# Caltest Analytical Laboratory



- Specialized commercial environmental analytical chemistry lab focusing on the analyses of regulated pollutants at low levels in water and wastewater.
- Established in Napa California in 1974.
- Accreditation in California through ELAP and nationally through the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program.
- Adheres to methods as established by the US EPA and Standard Methods of the Examination of Water and Wastewater.

# Recommendation

It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water that the Board of Public Utilities, by motion, waive competitive bidding and authorize the award of a sole source Professional Services Agreement with Vitisystems, Inc. DBA Caltest Analytical Laboratory for analytical services in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.



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# Item 8.4 – Waiver of Competitive Bidding Process and Sole Source of Professional Services Agreement with Alpha Analytical Laboratory, Inc. for Analytical Services



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# Alpha Analytical Laboratory



- Environmental analytical chemistry lab with analytical laboratory locations throughout California including Ukiah and Petaluma.
- Established in 1975.
- Accreditation in California through ELAP.
- Adheres to methods as established by the US EPA and Standard Methods of the Examination of Water and Wastewater.

# Recommendation

It is recommended by the Santa Rosa Water that the Board of Public Utilities, by motion, waive competitive bidding and authorize the award of a sole source Professional Services Agreement with Alpha Analytical Laboratories for analytical services in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.



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