

**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

FROM: Vice Mayor Ron Smith

DATE: April 24, 2012

SUBJECT: **Report on the Activities of the Board of Directors for District No. 14 of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County**

Recommendation:

Receive a report of the proceedings and issues discussed at the March 22, 2012, District No. 14 Board of Directors meeting of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

Background:

District No. 14 of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County is organized to receive through their trunk sewers the wastewater from all of the City of Lancaster, a small region of the westerly portion of the City of Palmdale, and a smaller region of the unincorporated County of Los Angeles. A Board of Directors comprised of a representative from each city and the County generally meets monthly to review and decide upon the business of the District.

At the March 22, 2012, special meeting, Sanitation District staff gave the Board of Directors and members of the public a guided tour of the newly constructed facilities at the Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant. The Plant is scheduled to commence operations in three-four months time. The Board meeting followed the tour and the Board of Directors considered the following agenda items:

- Approved a Recycled Water and Lease Agreement with Progress Farms for Agricultural Reuse of Recycled Water in Accordance with all Applicable Regulations and Requirements on 2,880 acres of Sanitation District Property at the Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) Eastern Agricultural Site (EAS). The District released the RFP to approximately 40 local entities and received six proposals, with Progress Farms having submitted the highest ranking proposal overall. Progress Farms proposed to pay the District, on an annual basis, \$145 per acre of leased land and, per the RFP, \$35 per acre-foot of recycled water to cover delivery costs. The proposed Agreement provides for a lease term of July 1, 2012 through October 31, 2017, for Progress Farms who, during this time, will provide the District with approximately \$4.25 million.
- The Board authorized issuance of Purchase Order to Cascade Earth Sciences in amount of approximately \$764,000 to Provide Agricultural Consulting Services and Vadose Zone Monitoring System Maintenance at Lancaster and Palmdale Water Reclamation Plants (WRPs) Agricultural Reuse Sites and Storage Reservoirs. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region permits require that moisture in the soil above the groundwater table (vadose zone) be monitored at

the Lancaster and Palmdale WRPs' agricultural reuse sites and storage reservoirs. In addition, the Regional Board requires the Districts to develop a program to manage agricultural operations near the Lancaster and Palmdale WRPs in a manner that assures application of recycled water is at or below agronomic rates, and to conduct monitoring and reporting by a qualified agricultural expert to demonstrate compliance with the permit requirements. Proposals for these tasks were solicited from seven firms and two proposals were received. Cascade Earth Sciences was ranked as the most qualified to provide the required services and provided a cost-effective proposal. The total cost of approximately \$764,000 is required to provide these services from April 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014. The cost will be apportioned as follows: (1) District No. 14 approximately \$301,000 and (2) District No. 20 approximately \$463,000.

- The Board approved Change Order No. 41 to Contract No. 4328 with Taisei-T&K Joint Venture, for Construction of Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant Stage Five Plant Expansion–Phase I, Resulting in Payment of \$228,600 for Extra Work. The original bid for the plant expansion was \$143M. Change orders for this project have totaled \$2M so far.