



THOMAS L. BOLICH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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### AGENDA: FEBRUARY 13, 2007

February 1, 2007

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 7, BOULDER CREEK  
FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Members of the Board:

On October 17, 2006, your Board directed Public Works to continue working with the County Service Area (CSA) No. 7 homeowners group to define the project scope, find funding for the force main replacement project, and return with a status report. Public Works staff has been working with the CSA No. 7 community and the Regional Water Quality Control Board engineer in order to reduce future accidental breaks in the force main and to better define the overall project that should be funded.

In the past, there have been multiple occurrences of breaks in the force main at the location where the force main crosses the Highway 236 bridge crossing Boulder Creek. Public Works believes that these breaks were caused by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) crews repairing their railing. In order to try to reduce future puncturing of the force main by Caltrans at this location, we have alerted Caltrans District 5 maintenance supervisors as to the relatively shallow location of the force main and also posted signs adjacent to the force main stating "Sewer Force Main Below, Call (831) 477-3907 Prior to Digging."

**An** engineering evaluation of the force main has been completed, and it was recommended that the force main be replaced between Pump Station 3 and the leach fields. This recommendation significantly reduces the amount of total pipeline replacement anticipated. Because of that, at the last community meeting on October 16, 2006, it was suggested that the County look at all needed system upgrades prior to developing a cost estimate for a loan. These included the elimination of inflow and infiltration problems due to storm water entering the sewer system and upgrades to the treatment facility to provide tertiary treated water to the golf course for landscape watering.

In the past few years, inflow of surface water during storm events had increased significantly and resulted in additional costs for pumping and treatment. In order to assess the cause of the inflow, Public Works performed smoke testing of the sewer lines in CSA No. 7 on

November 1, 2006, and discovered that portions of a condominium complex at Anchor Court had tied their roof and storm drain line to the public sewer. They disconnected the storm drain from our sewer on January 11, 2007, after being informed that this was an illegal connection. The treatment plant operator will monitor the inflow situation at the plant and verify if removal of this storm water source eliminates the problem or if other sources of inflow need to be investigated.

Upgrading the treatment facility in order to produce tertiary treated water for the golf course would have many benefits. These include extending the life of the leach fields, being able to bypass the force main during construction without paying for bypass pumping, and supplying recycled water for use in watering the golf course. The cost of the upgrade is anticipated to be significantly less than the cost of bypass pumping and will be evaluated as part of the engineer's estimate for the overall project once it is completely defined.

Public Works' staff plan to meet with the homeowners later this month to discuss the status of the force main replacement project and the upcoming budget issues for 2007/2008. Cost management reports, the engineering report, and related correspondence have been posted on the CSA No. 7 website in order to keep the interested homeowners up to date on our progress.

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Accept and file this report on the County Service Area No. 7, Boulder Creek force main replacement.
2. Direct Public Works to continue to work with the County Service Area No. 7 homeowners group to define the project scope and find funding.
3. Direct Public Works to return with a status report on or before May 22, 2007.

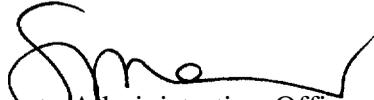
Yours truly,



THOMAS L. BOLICH  
Director of Public Works

TLB:RLL:mh

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:

  
County Administrative Officer

copy to: Public Works  
CSA No. 7 Representatives