September Director Questions - Siegfried

p. 234: If staff are not recommending the District pre-fund design and permitting work because doing so would violate established policy, that sounds a lot like staff are recommending that the District not fund. Or am I missing some subtle nuance?

It has been a long-established practice to assist groups that wish to connect to the District in finding funding rather than use District funds. The feasibility study payment was from Dan Kieg – he did not disclose if other members of the community participated. At this point, we do not know how many parcels are interested in connecting. Some of the very preliminary neighborhood canvassing has not been done, although staff has suggested that the community should get organized if they wish to pursue an assessment district. A group of neighbors are currently in the process of circulating a petition, but it is unlikely that they can get enough signatures prior to the grant application deadline in November. We heard from one community member, Michael Littman, that he would like the project to be 100% grant funded.

If the Board wishes to fund the design/environmental/permit work, it can make that decision. MNS Engineers estimates that cost at $1.2M. The timeline to get the environmental work completed prior to March 1, 2023, would be extremely difficult to achieve since the consultant is not selected to do the work at this time.

If I am not missing a subtle nuance, please explain why staff are foregoing the opportunity to recommend that we not fund.

Staff is recommending that we not fund because of the precedent it would set. Again, the Board can make a decision to fund if it chooses.

Please characterize the pressures Yankee Point / Otter Cove residents are under to convert from septic to sewer. Is LAMP the only pressure currently?

There is some "rumor" that a couple of parcels in the Yankee Point area are discharging into the ocean. We do not have any verification of this. We have told them that if that is the case the Regional Board should be notified.

Apart from completion of the design and permitting, what other requirements must an applicant meet to qualify for a Septic-to-Sewer SRF loan? What requirements must an applicant meet to qualify for a grant from this program?

Initial engineering & CEQA is needed to completed by March 1, 2023 in order to qualify for grant funding. A completed application will also need to be submitted by March 1, 2023, which includes financial and managerial information as well as resolutions by the Board to support the application.

Please see pp. 214-215 for grant information

pp. 238 – 244: Please provide the Board response to the questions and statements on these pages, and indicate which arise from misinformation attributable to using the superseded draft and which arise from information in the most 2022 report, if any.

The draft report was updated in January 2022 and finalized. The information in the final report is more complete and costs have been updated.

1. Are you planning to place a pump at each home? Where? We are at the preliminary stages of design with 60 % plans being prepared in the near future. This detail will be included in the design. Homes located on the downhill side of Pescadero Road would likely need ejector pump systems.

2. Are you planning a central collection area that is then pumped? Where? We are at the preliminary stages of design. A central collection system is not needed for this project.

3. What backup power measures are you proposing? This is not a requirement for an ejector pump system. Limiting use of the sewer during power outages should be enough.

4. What prevention of down flow measures are you proposing? We are at the preliminary stages of design. This detail will be included in the final design.

5 What one-way valving systems (and backups) are you proposing? We are at the preliminary stages of design. We require backflow prevention devices on all laterals and this detail will be included in the design.

6. What are the pump model numbers you intend to use? We are at the preliminary stages of design. This detail will be included in the design and coordinated with each property owner.

7. What compensation measures are in place to deal with potential disasters from power outages, earthquakes, land shifts and pipe breaks from the proposal? Claims due to disasters are reviewed and paid by our insurance company. This is part of doing business as a sewer agency.

8. What gas build up prevention measures will be used to prevent pipe bursts? Plumbing vents in the house and the pump venting are what is needed to release sewer gases from the system.

1. Question regarding fire risk of using ejector pumps - ejector pumps are submerged in wastewater and not a fire risk.
2 Installation requires heavy machinery - Installation can be done by manual labor rather than heavy machinery. Installation methodology will be determined on a case by case basis.
3. Hookup in street will require crossing gas main - Sewer lines are normally installed in streets with gas mains and water mains. This is not an uncommon construction issue.
4. Failure rate of pump system - The e-one pumps were chosen because of their reputation for excellent performance and great track record throughout the USA. The average time between service calls is 10 years and if a pump fails, it can quickly be replaced by a plumber.

5. Noise - Pumps only run when showers, kitchen and/or toilets are used. Noise should not be an issue.
6. Concern about how much maintenance is required and who will do it - The CAWD Board of Directors and staff will have a committee to establish the ejector pump policy that will address this. Average time between service calls for the e-one system is 10 years.
7. Statement that costs are underestimated for lateral and ejector pump work -Cost estimates will be refined based on site specific conditions once preliminary plans are completed.
8. Future costs to homeowners - CAWD Board and staff will establish a committee to establish the ejector pump policy that will address this issue.
9. Concern regarding property values- there is no evidence that having an ejector pump lowers property values. We regularly have applications for construction of new homes in Carmel-by-the-Sea that require ejector pumps.
10 Archaeological sites?- CAWD has contracted with Denise Duffy and Associates to complete environmental studies for the project. All work is proposed to be located in the roadway which is unlikely to have cultural resources and is not in the canyon. By doing this we are eliminating concerns about cultural resources.
11. Need for a generator - This is not a requirement for an ejector pump system. Limiting use of the sewer during power outages should be enough.

pp. 249 – 263: I am not sure whom these thirteen points are from. They seem to have been included twice, and I get the impression they are an MNS product. Please clarify.
These pages appear to be screen shots from the E-One website and other websites. It is not from any report that we have and are not specific to what may be proposed for the Pescadero Project. Currently we are at the preliminary stages of design and environmental review has not been completed.

pp. 264 – 345: Please provide responses to any points raised by residents in these pages.

It appears that many of these questions are repeats of what was listed above. See response below.

1. Costs - Addressed above.
2. Question regarding the installation of the pump system and environmental damage being more in a backyard than along a narrow access road - All work is proposed to be located in the public street which is less environmentally sensitive than the canyon behind the homes.
3. Fire concerns - Addressed above.
4. Venting of gases - Addressed above.
5. Fire concerns – Addressed above.
6. Power supply requirements? We are at the preliminary stages of design. This detail will be included in the design.
7. Power outages. – addressed above.
8. Rentals with items flushed that are not recommended for ejector pumps.- Flushing these items is against the District's code. The items listed are not specific to the grinder pump system but are requirements of regulatory codes. If we find that a rental has these items placed in any lateral,

the property owner can be fined. If the items clog the pumps, a plumber can easily come and clean out the pump.

9. Question regarding public notice- We are at the preliminary phase of design. Notification is required at the time of Environmental Review of the project. We were planning to complete outreach efforts once we had a design to share with the public.

p. 347: What rating does this line have in our CIP program, and where is it in the replacement queue?

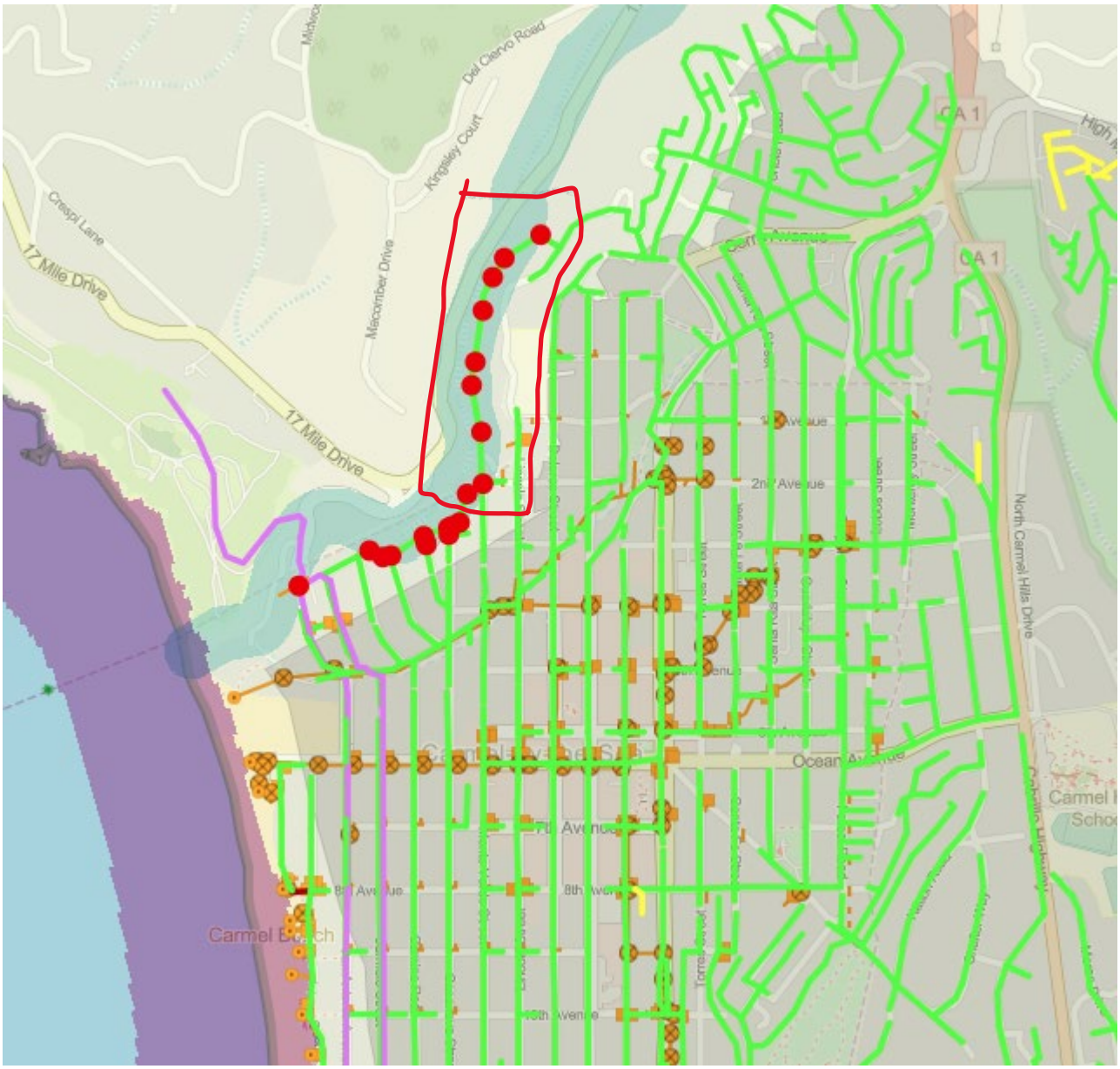
The Pescadero pipeline is rated as an overall PACP Score of 5 due to multiple cracks, offset joints and fractures. In addition, the brick manholes were rated fair to poor in the project area. The project is within 100 feet of Pescadero Creek and is required to be replaced per our agreement with River Watch (see map).

The type of damage to the pipe is not conducive with the use of pipe bursting or lining since there are offset joints, sags and breaks throughout the 100 year old clay pipe. Replacing the pipeline in its current location on a steep slope and within a narrow access path could cause slope instability due to the need to use open trench construction to replace the pipe in place. Even if pipe bursting could be used, this requires the excavation of access pits and other pits to connect laterals to the line. The pipe trenches in either case will need to be between 5 feet to 8 feet deep. It is highly unlikely that permits could be obtained for replacement of the pipeline in its current location due to environmental concerns and slope stability issues.

Currently, our equipment cannot access the pipeline for maintenance or to respond to a spill. This pipeline has had 5 overflows in the past 8 years, with one of them in 2021. Over 200 homes direct their sewage to the pipeline with a peak rate of flow of about 400 gallons per minute. Directing the flow to Pescadero Road will eliminate the risk of spilling sewage into the waterway.

The project is the third item on our Capital Improvement Project list for Collections.

Map of Pescadero Sewer location with Respect to 100 Foot Buffer from Creek



Map of Manhole Conditions with Project Area Circled in Red