MONTARA WATER AND SANITARY DISTRICT AGENDA

For Meeting Of: **November 19, 2026**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: Clemens Heldmaier, General Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Sewer Emergency Preparedness in Advance of Possible El Nino Storm Events

Sanitary agencies across the State are responding to the Governor's declaration of emergency for potential El Nino storm. MWSD in accordance with its Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) has undertaken a review of its equipment inventory and had collaboration meetings with SAM (who is MWSD's sewer system maintenance contractor.) The purpose for the meetings was to determine if existing emergency equipment is working, stationed in locations for quick access during storms, and determine additional equipment needed to be purchased to aid in fast response of potential damaged coastal pipes.

SAM presented an El Nino preparation report for the treatment plan to the SAM Board in September.

- The storm prediction presents potential of increased rain intensity and winds between months of October and March.
- Adding to the typical high winter tides, this winter extra high tides are predicted due to moon/planet/sun alignment, causing water levels 1-2 feet higher that usual King Tides.
- Additional water height increases are visible due to seal level rise from global warming.
- This season the Super El Ninio, which temporarily warms ocean water, produces increased wave energy and winds which push water toward the shore, adding an additional six to twelve inches.
- Power Failures Likely: these storm warnings are likely to increase failures of both the regional power grid, and local neighborhoods
- This may cause increase erosion and specially damage pipes in the vicinity of ocean cliffs, creeks and drainage channels.

SAM has been testing, and running emergency equipment, pumps and generators to ensure everything is operational. They have also looked at re-assigning staff hours to increase on-call assignments ahead of and during big storms to ensure fast response. They have also notified local contractors of possible on-call response needs. They have also increased system cleaning and checking on pipe siphons, manhole level sensors and pump stations for operation before storms to ensure uninterrupted service.

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The result of the meetings with SAM to check equipment inventories and asses risk of hard to access sewer mains, it has been determined there is a need for additional small and medium sized portable trash pumps, submersible pumps, and generators, hoses and fittings are needed.

These smaller sized pumps can be moved with manual labor to easement areas not directly accessible by work trucks or larger equipment will offer the most resiliency for mitigating potential failures in areas of poor access.

Financial Impact: The District already has budgeted money for operation and maintenance, and for emergency response of the sewer system. The expected cost for additional emergency response equipment needed will be purchased with funds already allocated from budgeted O&M category through the SAM Maintenance Agreement in the amount estimated to be $25,000.00.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item for the Board to update the Board and the public the General Manager of the Montara Water and Sanitary District and requested SAM to purchase additional emergency response equipment for use in the MWSD collection system to offer additional preparedness for El Nino storms, and most purchases will be through the SAM Maintenance Agreement with the amount estimated to be approximately $25,000.00.