NORTH SAN MATEO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
a subsidiary of the City of Daly City
OPERATION OFFICES
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December 1, 2014

US Army Corps of Engineers,
Attn: CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)
441 G. Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Subject: Proposal from Non-Federal Interest for Proposed Feasibility Studies for Inclusion in the USACE Annual Report

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

This proposal request is hereby submitted by the City of Daly City, on behalf of its subsidiary, the North San Mateo County Sanitation District, consistent with the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, and proposal request criteria outlined in the Federal Register Notice dated August 5, 2014.

1. The non-Federal interest planning to act as project sponsor is the City of Daly City, California, on behalf of its subsidiary, the North San Mateo County Sanitation District.

2. This proposal is for a feasibility study associated with the proposed Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project located in the northern portion of the City of Daly City in San Mateo County and the southwestern portion of the City and County of San Francisco.

3. Project purpose of the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project (Project) proposes to alleviate localized and upstream flooding and resultant property damage by conducting a number of integrated improvements to the existing drain system, as further described below. The Project is proposed in the northern portion of the City of Daly City in San Mateo County and the southwestern portion of the City and County of San Francisco, including lands managed by the National Park Service (NPS) in Fort Funston. The Project location is shown in Figure 1. The existing Vista Grande Canal (Canal) conveys stormwater and authorized non-storm flows collected from the Vista Grande Drainage Basin (Basin) which includes northern Daly City and unincorporated Broadmoor Village in San Mateo County. The Basin is approximately 2.5 square miles in area and is bordered by San Francisco County to the north, Colma Creek watershed to the south and east, and Thornton State Beach and the Pacific Ocean on the west. The Basin is shown in Figure 2.

   The Canal is located along the southwestern edge of Lake Merced in San Francisco, on the south side of John Muir Drive. The existing Vista Grande Tunnel (Tunnel) conveys stormwater and authorized non-storm flows from the end of the Canal to an ocean outlet on the beach at Fort Funston, crossing beneath The Olympic Club golf course and Fort Funston.

   The Project as proposed by Daly City would consist of the following:

   - Improvements within the existing Vista Grande Drainage Basin storm drain system upstream of the Vista Grande Canal (to be described in a draft Lake Management Plan [LMP] to be appended to and analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement EIR/EIS) anticipated to be released mid-March 2015;

- Partial replacement of the existing Vista Grande Canal to incorporate a gross solid screening device, a constructed treatment wetland, diversion and discharge structures to route some stormwater (and authorized non-storm water) flows from the Vista Grande Canal to Lake Merced, and a lake overflow structure to allow water from the lake to flow into the Canal and Tunnel;

- Modification of an existing effluent gravity pipeline that currently discharges to the Tunnel and submarine outfall and diffuser during dry weather only, so that it may be used year-round to convey treated effluent from Daly City's wastewater treatment plant to the existing submarine outfall and diffuser by gravity, and abandonment of a force main pipeline currently used to convey these flows during wet weather;

- Replacement of the existing Vista Grande Tunnel to expand its hydraulic capacity and extend its operating lifetime and replacement of the Lake Merced Portal connecting the Canal to the Tunnel; and

- Replacement of the existing Ocean Outlet structure at Fort Funston.

Associated operational components of the Project would include management of water surface elevations (WSEs) in Lake Merced and implementation of a LMP currently under development with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) that would include water quality best management practices, including the upstream improvements in the basin described above and additional actions, the implementation of which may be triggered during post-Project monitoring.

The proposed Project would alleviate flooding potential with its resultant property damage and protect the ocean outlet from ongoing coastal erosion, while reconnecting a significant portion of the Lake Merced Watershed back into Lake Merced.

Project objectives include:

- Improve stormwater drainage of the lower Vista Grande Basin to reduce public hazards and minimize property damage, business interruption, and public inconvenience due to flooding;

- Provide a sustainable source of clean stormwater, to facilitate the management of Lake Merced water quality and ground and surface water elevations;

- Improve recreational access and reduce litter transfer and deposition along the beach below Fort Funston; and

- Minimize construction-related costs, habitat disturbance, and disruption to recreational users by maximizing use of existing rights-of-way, easements, and infrastructure.

The Vista Grande storm drain system historically drains the northwestern portion of Daly City and an unincorporated portion of San Mateo County – areas originally within the watershed of Lake Merced. The Vista Grande Canal and Tunnel were built by the Spring Valley Water Company in 1897 to prevent heavy runoff from contaminating Lake Merced water, which at the time constituted the water supply for San Francisco along with Crystal Springs Reservoir. The existing Tunnel, with a capacity of 170 cubic feet per

second (cfs), does not have adequate hydraulic capacity to convey peak Canal storm flows (500 cfs capacity). Flows in excess of the capacity of the Canal and the Tunnel have resulted in flooding in nearby low-lying residential areas and in overflows across John Muir Drive into Lake Merced, causing property damage, bank erosion, traffic nuisances, public safety issues, and additions of untreated stormwater to Lake Merced.

Lake Merced consists of four hydrologically connected lakes (East, North, South, and Impound), which combined form the largest freshwater lake in San Francisco. It is located in the southwestern corner of San Francisco, bounded by Skyline Boulevard, Lake Merced Boulevard, and John Muir Drive, and is approximately 0.25 mile east of the Pacific Ocean. The Lake was historically a coastal lagoon that was intermittently connected to the ocean via a channel that ran through the current location of the San Francisco Zoo. This connection was permanently closed in 1895 with the construction of Skyline Boulevard and the Great Highway. Lake Merced supports limited contact recreational activities including boating and fishing, as well as other non-contact uses such as pedestrian use of perimeter paved paths and trails managed by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. The SFPUC also maintains Lake Merced as a non-potable emergency water supply to be used for firefighting or sanitation purposes if no other sources of water are available. Lake Merced currently does not meet the generally-applicable Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) for dissolved oxygen (DO) and pH. As a result, the USEPA in 2003 included Lake Merced on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies for these constituents, notwithstanding the Regional and State Water Board's recommendation not to include those listings.

Topographical elevations within the Project area range from sea level to approximately 200 feet above mean sea level. The majority of the Project area is relatively flat to shallowly sloped. However, steep coastal cliffs over 150 feet in height occupy the west edge of the survey area near the Pacific Ocean.

A preliminary delineation of waters of the U.S. for the Project area was submitted to the Corps in January 2014. A site visit and field verification with the Corps occurred in April 2014. Lake Merced, its adjacent wetlands, and the Pacific Ocean are subject to jurisdiction under both Section 404 of the CWA and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA). Within the overall study area, at least 18.534 acres (807,341 square feet) of potentially jurisdictional waters of the U.S. are subject to jurisdiction under Section 404 of the CWA; a subset of those waters, totaling 14.178 acres (617,601 square feet), is also subject to jurisdiction under Section 10 of the RHA. Some of these waters would be directly affected by the construction of the Lake Merced Outlet at Impound Lake, and others may be inundated with the proposed increase in Lake Merced's average surface elevation. The area of potential inundation is not yet known, but will be estimated based on a range of potential surface elevations.

4. The estimated project cost, based upon Jacobs Associates 30% Design, is $100 million.

5. It is difficult at the present time to quantify the anticipated monetary and non-monetary benefits associated with the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project. The project is intended to enhance local flood protection and resulting improvements to protect private property from flood damage. Improvements to public property include protection f John Muir Drive from flooding and associated impacts upon transportation routes. Flooding issues associated with the Vista Grande Canal have led to claims against Daly City from the City and County of San Francisco. As noted, the project is anticipated to provide environmental benefits to both Lake Merced by restoring the historic watershed to address declining lake levels, and the Pacific Ocean by eliminated trash that now gets discarded onto the beach and requires hand clean-up.

6. Local support for the project exists within the City of Daly City on behalf of its subsidiary, the North San Mateo County Sanitation District, as the preferred project alternative. The alternative was presented to the Board of Directors at its meeting of May 23, 2011. The enclosed meeting minutes under Item 10, Public Hearing on the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Alternatives Analysis Report, notes members of the public who spoke before the Board in support of the project.

7. The City of Daly City, through its subsidiary, the North San Mateo County Sanitation District, possesses the financial ability to provide for its required local cost share for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project.

8. This proposal request from the City of Daly City suffices as its support statement as non-federal interest.

On behalf of the City of Daly City and its subsidiary, the North San Mateo County Sanitation District, I appreciate the opportunity to submit our proposal as a non-Federal interest. Any question or additional information can be directed to me either by calling direct (650) 991-8201 or emailing psweetland@dalycity.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Sweetland, Director
Department of Water and Wastewater Resources

PS:jc {L14-120}

Attachments (3): Figure 1 – Project Location
Figure 2 – Vista Grande Drainage Basin
May 23, 2011 Meeting Minutes

SOURCE: Jacobs Associates, 2014

Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project. 207036.01

Figure 1

Project Location

SOURCE: Jacobs Associates and ESA

Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project . 207036.01

Figure 2
Vista Grande Drainage Basin

REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

May 23, 2011

The Board of Directors of the North San Mateo County Sanitation District convened in a Regular Meeting on May 23, 2011, in the City Council Chamber, City Hall, 333 - 90th Street, Daly City, California.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Klatt at 6:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Buenaventura, Canepa, Guingona, Torres, Klatt

Staff Present: General Manager Patricia Martel, District Counsel Rose Zimmerman, City Clerk Annette Hipona, City Treasurer Tony Zidich, Assistant City Manager Kerry Burns, Director of Water and Wastewater Resources Patrick Sweetland, Senior Civil Engineer Robert Ovadia, Police Lieutenant Lou Pezzola, Assistant to the City Manager Joseph Curran, Assistant City Clerk Teresa Ricci, and Office Assistant I Angelica Zermeno as Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made, seconded (Torres/Guingona) and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 25, 2011

1. **Sewer Service Charge Appeals – FYs 2010/2011 and 2011/2012**
2. **Revenue and Expenditures Summary Report – March and April 2011**
3. **Proposition 111 – Appropriations Limitation**

Motion was made, seconded (Torres/Canepa) and unanimously carried to adopt the Consent Agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING:

10. **Public Hearing - Vista Grande Drainage Basin Alternatives Analysis Report**

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON ITEM #10

The special meeting was called to order by Mayor Klatt at 6:51 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK:

Present: Buenaventura, Canepa, Guingona, Torres, Klatt

10. **Public Hearing - Vista Grande Drainage Basin Alternatives Analysis Report**

Director of Water and Wastewater Resources Patrick Sweetland provided a PowerPoint presentation on the four project alternatives aimed toward achieving long term management of stormwater issues within the

Vista Grande Drainage Basin. The Vista Grande Drainage Basin Alternatives Analysis was lead by Jacobs and Associates along with the firms Brown and Caldwell and ESA to develop an achievable alternatives to manage stormwater flows up to a 25-year, four hour storm event to improve public safety, flood protection, minimize property damage and public inconvenience in addition to encourage the diversion and reuse of stormwater to reduce uncontrolled overflows into Lake Merced, improve stormwater quality, and provide beneficial stormwater uses to the community. Speakers in support of the project included Steven Ritchie of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Dick Morten of the Lake Merced Task Force, Dick Allen of the Lake Merced Task Force, and Richard Roos-Collins representing California Trout. The speakers commended the responsible parties on the research and work for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin as it will help restore Lake Merced. Both Chair Klatt and General Manager Pat Martel acknowledged and personally thanked the team for their work on the proposed Vista Grande Alternatives Analysis Report.

Motion was made, seconded (Torres, Buenaventura) to close the Public Hearing.

ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Motion was made, seconded (Buenaventura, Canepa) and unanimously carried to accept the "Vista Grande Drainage Basin Alternatives Analysis Report" and to authorize staff to further refine the remaining alternatives.

Motion was made and seconded and carried on a unanimous voice vote to adjourn the Special Meeting of the City Council.

RETURN OF THE NORTH SAN MATEO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT MEETING

Motion was made, seconded (Guingona/Buenaventura) and unanimously carried on a roll call vote to adopt Resolution #11-SD-08, "Vista Grande Drainage Basin Alternatives Analysis Report" and to authorize staff to further refine remaining alternatives.

REPORTS:

20. **Board of Directors**

    None.

21. **Staff**

    None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made, seconded (Torres/Guingona) and unanimously carried to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:17 p.m.