

WWTP Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Summary Report

Meeting Date: June 16, 2026

Committee Members Present: Director Carter Ohlmann, Director Rock Rockenbach

Staff Present: General Manager Weigold; Bryce and Michael from Engineering; Caroline from the Lab; Ricardo from Collections; and Robert, Michael, and Luis from Treatment.

Contractors Present: Numerous (~12) managers and engineers from Southland and Ardurra.

Duration: Approximately 4.0 hours

Overview

The WWTP Ad Hoc Committee attended a workshop with Southland, Ardurra, and District staff concerning alternatives for an updated/upgraded headworks system as part of the Investment Grade Audit and preliminary design process.

The workshop was informational and technical in nature. The Committee received information, listened to the discussion among staff, engineers, and contractors, and provided limited clarifying input as appropriate. The Committee did not take action, make decisions, or develop a recommendation for Board action.

The discussion focused on major headworks alternatives and related evaluation considerations, including:

- Influent lift station location and configuration;
- Whether to rehabilitate the existing headworks structure or construct new;
- Wet well configuration: wet well/submersible pump or wet well/dry well concepts;
- Screening location and type;
- Grit removal technology;
- Construction sequencing and temporary bypass considerations;
- Operability and maintenance considerations;
- Footprint, aesthetic, environmental, and cost considerations.

The workshop materials identified the following evaluation criteria: impacts during construction, operability, footprint, aesthetics/environmental considerations, and relative costs. The weighting presented placed the greatest emphasis on operability and relative cost.

Board-Level Summary

The principal takeaway is that the workshop addressed numerous headworks alternatives, each of which has associated costs, benefits, drawbacks, operational implications, construction issues, and long-term planning considerations. The discussion was not intended to produce a final recommendation at this stage. Rather, the purpose was to identify the viable alternatives, evaluate them against a common set of criteria, receive input from District staff, and allow Southland and Ardurra to further refine the range of options.

The alternatives are being evaluated through the application of weighted criteria, including construction impacts, operability, footprint, aesthetics/environmental considerations, and relative cost. Those criteria are intended to provide a consistent framework for comparing alternatives and developing a composite score. While the scoring process will not eliminate the need for judgment, it should help ensure that the alternatives are compared in a uniform and disciplined manner.

The workshop addressed whether the District should rehabilitate the existing headworks structure or construct a new headworks facility in another location. Rehabilitating the existing structure uses the existing footprint and reduces some relocation issues, but it involves substantial construction complexity and operational risk during construction. A new headworks structure may provide better long-term configuration and expansion opportunities, but raises separate issues involving location, excavation, aesthetics, environmental considerations, and depth.

The workshop addressed screening alternatives. The discussion included whether screening should occur upstream or downstream of the influent pumps, the relative implications of tall screens versus shorter screens, and different screen technologies. At this stage, the screening discussion appeared focused on identifying the operational, maintenance, construction, and layout implications of the available alternatives rather than making a final selection.

The workshop addressed grit removal alternatives. The discussion included conventional aerated grit removal and vortex/cyclone-type systems, together with related equipment and operational considerations. As with screening, the grit removal discussion appeared preliminary and intended to help inform the developing headworks configuration.

The analysis remains preliminary. Further engineering evaluation, cost development, and District review will be needed before any recommendation is brought to the Board. The next step is for Southland and Ardurra to consider the feedback received from District staff and return with a narrower range of options for further evaluation and eventual presentation to the Board.

“The project remains on schedule, and it is anticipated that we will hit the 45% IGA mark in early July 2026.”

Action Items Taken

None.

Recommendations to Board

None at this time.