

RESOLUTION NO. 937

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 932 AND ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (BAAQMD) TO BUILD PHASE II OF THE AQUATIC BIOMASS TO FUEL PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City is committed to a full range of efforts to lower greenhouse gases and develop renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2005 the Council adopted Resolution 26341 to establish greenhouse gas reduction targets; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma State University demonstrated that the City's wastewater effluent has substantial rates of algae growth with concomitant nitrate, phosphate, and copper removal.

WHEREAS, In July 2007 the City of Santa Rosa, in collaboration with Sonoma State University, built Phase I of a pilot Aquatic Biomass to Fuel project; and

WHEREAS, Phase I comprised the construction of channelized wetlands to demonstrate the ability to grow aquatic vegetation in wastewater effluent to improve water quality, produce renewable energy for on-site power, and potentially produce biodiesel that can be used in the City's growing biodiesel fleet; and

WHEREAS, Phase I consistently lowered nitrate levels in the effluent to below the regulatory limit for drinking water, and the harvested material has been shown to be well-suited for anaerobic digestion; and

WHEREAS, the construction of Phase II of this project is a natural next step in this process; and

WHEREAS, Phase II consists of building two digesters to quantify the transformation of harvested biomass into methane-rich biogas. The biogas will be captured in the digesters to generate on-site power and reduce greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, by capturing methane from the digesters the City can augment its renewable fuel portfolio and reduce emissions associated with wastewater treatment; and

WHEREAS, converting aquatic biomass to fuel is a needed innovation due to the negative impact fossil fuels have on the environment and to meet the City's greenhouse gas reduction goal set by Resolution 26341; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) released a solicitation for their Climate Protection Grant Program to fund projects that would reduce pollutants that contribute to global climate change and affect air quality in the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, the Utilities Department has successfully applied for \$75,000 in grant funding to build Phase II of the City of Santa Rosa's Aquatic Biomass to Fuel project; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Utilities approved the original contract on August 7, 2008, by Resolution No.932; and

WHEREAS, the BAAQMD subsequently modified the grant reporting schedule and issued a new contract to be signed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Public Utilities rescinds its approval of the original contract and therefore rescinds Resolution No.932, adopted on August 7, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Public Utilities accepts a Climate Protection grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to build Phase II of the Aquatic Biomass to Fuel project and authorize the Chair to sign the new, original agreement.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED by the City of Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities this 7th day of November, 2008

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED: _____
Chairman Richard Dowd

ATTEST: _____
Gina Perez
Recording Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney