



Legislation Text

File #: 24-61, Version: 1

Memorandum

Date: February 6, 2024

To: The Honorable Bruno Sabatier, Chair
Lake County Sanitation District Board of Directors

From: Scott Harter, Special Districts Administrator

Subject: Consideration of request approving exception to Lake County Sewer Code Section 205, which would require APN 039-402-390-000 (3944 Pine Ave., Clearlake) to connect to the public sewer.

Executive Summary:

I was initially contacted by Mr. Eric Torbet with an inquiry about the use of a humanure composting and greywater diversion option for his property located at 3944 Pine Ave. in Clearlake in July 2021. At that time I advised him I would be supportive of a properly designed and permitted greywater diversion system however I had concerns about the humanure proposal. I directed him to the City Building department and Lake County Environmental Health to address that aspect of the proposed project. I also advised him that per our Sewer Use Ordinance, Section 205 requires a property to connect to the public sewer if within 200' feet of it. The property at 3944 Pine Ave. is fronted by a gravity sewer main and per the record drawings there is a sewer lateral stubbed out to serve the property. I advised him that I as the administrator do not have the liberty to waive that requirement and that an exception to the requirement could be requested of the Board (per Sec. 204). During that initial email exchange, I also advised him that I would not be supportive of an exception to the ordinance, noting that this innovative, potential project may be better suited to a rural setting and not one where a public sewer system was in place.

Mr. Torbet then worked with the City of Clearlake and Lake County Environmental Health to receive approval on his proposed project. Having secured approval from those agencies he formally approached the District last month requesting that an exception to the requirement to connect to the public sewer be considered by the Board.

Attached for your consideration are the following documents provided by Mr. Torbet: A December 14, 2023 letter requesting a waiver of the requirement of Section 205 of the Sewer Use Ordinance. A Humanure and Greywater Proposal providing details of the proposed project. Select sheets from the

plans including the Site Plan, Floor Plan, Plumbing Plan, and Plumbing Details. Additionally, a letter of support from Lake County Public Health is also attached.

If not budgeted, fill in the blanks below only:

Estimated Cost: _____ Amount Budgeted: _____ Additional Requested: _____ Future Annual Cost: _____

Purchasing Considerations (check all that apply):

☒ Not applicable

☐ Fully Article X. <https://library.municode.com/ca/lake_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH2AD_ARTXPU_S2-38EXCOBI>- and/or Consultant Selection Policy <http://lcnet.co.lake.ca.us/Assets/Intranet/Policy/Policies+26+Procedures+Manual/Ch4_2021v2.pdf>-Compliant (*describe process undertaken in "Executive Summary"*)

☐ Section 2-38 <https://library.municode.com/ca/lake_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH2AD_ARTXPU_S2-38EXCOBI> Exemption from Competitive Bidding (*rationale in "Executive Summary," attach documentation, as needed*)

☐ For Technology Purchases: Vetted and Supported by the Technology Governance Committee <<http://lcnet.co.lake.ca.us/Assets/Intranet/Intranet+Forms/Information+Technology/AdvPlan.pdf>> ("Yes," if checked)

☐ Other (*Please describe in Executive Summary*)

Consistency with Vision 2028 <<http://www.lakecountyca.gov/Government/Directory/Administration/Visioning/Vision2028.htm>>

(check all that apply):

☐ Not applicable

☐ Well-being of Residents

☐ Public Safety

☐ Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, Recovery

☐ Economic Development

☐ Infrastructure

☐ County Workforce

☐ Community Collaboration

☐ Business Process Efficiency

☐ Clear Lake

Recommended Action:

Provide staff direction regarding the request to approve an exception to the Lake County Sewer Code Section 205, which would require APN 039-402-390-000 (3944 Pine Ave., Clearlake) to connect to the public sewer.