

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA EXECUTING AN AGREEMENT WITH MICROVI BIOTECH, INC. TO CONDUCT A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT THAT REMOVES NITRATES FROM WELL WATER

WHEREAS, for decades, the City has relied upon ground water sources of water from wells, that is frequently contaminated by Nitrates, and has shut down three wells in the past five-years as a result of this single issue; and

WHEREAS, the wells the City recently shut down are Wells 3 and 4, and the current water resources it relies on are Well 1 (as its primary water source), with back-up water sources that went on-line in 2018/19 from Wells 5 and 6; and

WHEREAS; in October 2019, the City's treatment plant at Well 6 was approved and placed into service removing iron and manganese mostly from water taken from Well 5; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the City's newest well, "Well 6," had to be removed from the system when its Nitrate levels neared reaching the safety limits determined by the State Water Board Drinking Water Division ("Water Board") in the City's Drinking Water Permit, and has since been removed from the system; and

WHEREAS, Well 6 water has since exceeded the Permit Limits and remains off-line, causing the City to rely on only two wells for its drinking water rather than three, creating a potential insecurity in the current system; and

WHEREAS, in May, 2020, a biotechnology company from the Bay Area, "Microvi Biotech, Inc.", introduced itself to the City suggesting that its unique technology may help the City resolve its Nitrate problems, and that it had access to grant funds to pay for the technology and offered a demonstration of it at a city well; and

WHEREAS, this system referred to as MICROVI MNE™ is a biological treatment process that offers simple and effective nitrate and perchlorate removal with low total costs, low energy requirements, and remarkable stability and control; and

WHEREAS, MICROVI MNE™ technology converts nitrate in water into nitrogen gas, which is safely released into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2020, the City met a second time with three engineers representing the State's Drinking Water Division, and learned that they are very supportive of this technology, verifying that it has been effective in other public drinking water systems including the Sunny Slope facility in Pasadena, and with certain reservations, encouraged the City to except the generous offer to host a MICROVI MNE™ demonstration project at Well 6; and

WHEREAS, the City and Microvi have negotiated the attached Agreement for the demonstration that requires first the approval by the Water Board of the testing protocol, requiring

at all times during the testing that the treated water be disposed of into the waste water stream and not into the City's drinking water supply; and

WHEREAS, once proven to the Water Board to be successful and reliable at removing Nitrates, the City and Microvi may consider a long-term agreement leaving the equipment on-site to remove Nitrates from Well 6, allowing it to be placed back into service again with the Water Board's approval; and,

WHEREAS, both the City and Microvi Biotech Inc. wish to execute the attached Agreement, and if successful, return to the City Council for approval of a permanent agreement continuing said technological services as long as deemed necessary and beneficial to the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA NOW HEREBY FINDS:

1. That the recitals in this Resolution and accompanying staff report are true and correct and are hereby made a part of this Resolution.
2. It agrees that the demonstration of the technological services proposed by Microvi Biotech Inc., known as MICROVI MNE™, could be very beneficial to the city by removing Nitrates in its well water, and help improve the quality and reliability of its current water system.
3. Authorizes the City Manager make minor changes that may be necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution and to execute the Agreement with Microvi Biotech Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of San Juan Bautista at a regular meeting held on the 16th day of March 2021, by the following vote:


AYES: Jordan, Freeman, Flores, Edge, Freels

NOES: None

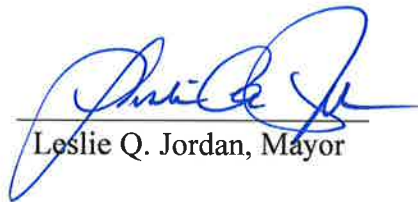
ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:



Trish Paetz, Deputy City Clerk



Leslie Q. Jordan, Mayor