



DATE: June 26, 2018

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Sanitary Sewer Management Plan Approval**

RECOMMENDATION

Approve updates to the City of Mountain View Sanitary Sewer Management Plan as required by the State Water Resources Control Board.

BACKGROUND

The Public Works Department maintains and operates the City's sanitary sewer system and maintains records of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). In 2006, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted Statewide SSO requirements to ensure system operators manage wastewater collection systems effectively and minimize the number of overflows. These requirements include the development of a Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP) that must be approved by governing bodies and annual reporting of any overflow of the public sanitary sewer that impacts public property. The City Council approved the original SSMP in August 2008.

The SSMP describes how the City:

- Maintains and improves the condition of the collection system to provide reliable long-term service;
- Minimizes infiltration/inflow to the sewer system and provides adequate capacity to accommodate sewer flows; and
- Minimizes the number and impact of SSOs.

In addition to describing how the City operates the sewer system, the SSMP outlines the City's standard procedures for responding to spills and overflows to protect public health and to prevent spills from reoccurring. The SSMP is comprised of the following 11 elements:

- Goals

The goals of the SSMP.

- Organization

Identifies City staff responsible for implementing the SSMP and responding to and reporting SSOs.

- Legal Authority

Discusses the City's authority for maintaining and operating a system. Lists the applicable City Codes and agreements with other agencies.

- Operations and Maintenance Plan

Provides an overview of the City's operation and maintenance program.

- Design and Performance Provisions

Outlines how to obtain detailed information on the City's sewer system design and construction standards.

- Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Plan

Provides information regarding how the City responds to and mitigates SSOs.

- FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) Control Program

Discusses the type and frequency of SSOs caused by fats, oils, and grease in the system, and the elements of the City's efforts to control same.

- System Evaluation and Capacity Assurance Plan

Discusses the City's efforts to evaluate sewer system capacity for new customers and plans to address needs for increased capacity.

- Monitoring, Measurement, and Plan Modifications

Details how the City evaluates the effectiveness of the SSMP and incorporates updates needed to improve the plan.

- SSMP Program Audits

Discusses how the City will periodically audit the SSMP for regulatory compliance.

- Communication Program

Outlines the City's efforts to communicate to the public the details and effectiveness of the plan.

A measure of the effectiveness of the SSMP and the City's overall wastewater system maintenance, repair, and replacement program is demonstrated through the number of SSOs the City experiences. In Fiscal Year 2015-16 (the most recent year for which Statewide statistics are available), a sewer system the size of Mountain View's would average approximately 10 SSOs; the City reported 1 SSO.

ANALYSIS

The City is required to periodically review the SSMP and incorporate updates as necessary. The most significant update since Council last approved the SSMP in 2013 is a revision to the classification of SSOs. Prior to 2014, overflows were categorized as follows:

- Category 1: All discharges of sewage of 1,000 gallons or more resulting from a failure in the City's sanitary sewer system that discharge to a drainage channel and/or surface water, or discharge to a storm drain and are not fully recovered.
- Category 2: All other discharges of sewage resulting from a failure in the City's sanitary sewer system.
- Private Lateral Sewage Discharges: Sewage discharges that are caused by blockages or other problems in a privately owned lateral.

In 2014, the City revised the SSMP to reflect updated classifications. The SWRCB expanded the categories as shown below to capture additional information regarding the severity, cause and impact of SSOs:

- Category 1: Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater of any volume that: (1) reach surface water and/or reach a drainage channel tributary to surface water; or (2) reach a storm sewer system and are not fully recovered.
- Category 2: Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater of 1,000 gallons or more that do not reach surface water, a drainage channel, or stormwater system (unless the entire discharge is recovered).
- Category 3: All other discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater resulting from an enrollee's sanitary sewer system failure or flow condition.
- Private Lateral Sewage Discharges: Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater resulting from blockages or other problems in a privately owned sewer lateral or from other private sewer assets.

The SWRCB also requires the City to periodically conduct third-party audits of the SSMP to ensure the City is meeting the plan goals, revise the SSMP as necessary, and obtain Council approval of the revisions. A 2016 audit identified numerous sections needing updates. The updates have been incorporated into the revised SSMP and include:

- Updates to Overflow Emergency Response Plans and adding plans for the City's sewage pump stations.
- Updates reflecting changes to the City's sewer system standard operating procedures and maintenance practices.
- Additional information regarding the City's capital replacement plans and processes.
- Updates reflecting changes in City personnel responsible for sewer system operation and management.
- Updates reflecting changes in the SWRCB organization and applicable State regulations.
- Updated statistical information regarding the sewer system.

- Additional information regarding new portions of the sewer system, e.g., new developments, etc.
- Additional information regarding anticipated changes to the system to accommodate new developments and add pipeline capacity.
- Updated system condition assessments based on recent system evaluations and studies.

The revised SSMP can be viewed at:

<https://www.mountainview.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=26636>

To comply with SWRCB requirements, staff recommends that Council approve the updates to the SSMP. If approved, staff will submit the updated SSMP to the SWRCB and the revised SSMP will be uploaded to the State's website.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action. Wastewater system maintenance activities are fully funded in the Public Works Department operating budget and the Capital Improvement Program.

ALTERNATIVES

Do not approve the SSMP changes and provide alternative direction to staff.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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