



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM

MEETING DATE: July 14th, 2026

PREPARED BY: Hector Renteria

AGENDA CONTENT: Sanitary Sewer System Updates

AGENDA ITEM SECTION: Regular Agenda

BUDGETED AMOUNT:

FUNDS REQUESTED:

FUND:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This is an update and discussion on the current state of our sanitary sewer system. This includes the approximate 105 miles of gravity sewer mains, the 33 miles of force mains, 1,877 manholes and the 47 lift stations in the collection system. This also includes our wastewater treatment plant.

Our current projected Capital Improvement costs will cost approximately \$292M, in today's dollars. This includes necessary replacements, equipment purchases, and new infrastructure for the city's sanitary sewer systems. These are projects that we must plan to begin and provide a funding source to do so. Another issue is that as we plan these projects to replace infrastructure there are emergencies that occur which force repairs, and replacements sooner than planned. This really shows the age of our infrastructure as we are having failures in many different areas. Especially since the materials used during this earlier period had much less life expectancy than today's materials. Across the city approximately 43% of sanitary sewer piping is made of a material that is past its life expectancy. As we are concerned ourselves more today about the replacements of the infrastructure, it is all coming due at a rapid rate. \$1.27M has been spent since 19-20 FY on emergency repairs/replacements to infrastructure. This is compared to the \$6.786M that was spent on infrastructure projects in total since 19-20FY. As we plan and create capital projects, we have infrastructure failures that are occurring as well. This significantly compounds the issue as we are having to address these immediately. It takes away funding for planned projects and erodes away our reserve funding for future emergencies. Our budget needs are essential and increase annually based on many factors including the need to rehabilitate infrastructure, inflation, new regulations, growth, and try to propel the department forward. There are also many things that we currently don't accomplish that are necessary as well. An example is the cleaning, CCTV, and manhole inspections on a routine basis. Another factor is how

we have ageing equipment that we are trying to keep up with, whether it's replacement or the amount we are having to spend to repair it.

As if areas that have complete infrastructure failures isn't bad enough, there is another major issue with the aged infrastructure, inflow and infiltration. Inflow occurs when Groundwater seeps into the sanitary sewer system through structural defects like cracks, porous joints, or degraded manhole walls. This volume often scales with high water tables, meaning it fluctuates by season and following rain events. Infiltration occurs when water rapidly enters the sanitary sewer system through direct, purposeful paths during rain events. Major culprits include uncapped sewer cleanouts, leaky manhole covers, and illegal connections. To provide an example of this we used lift station pump run times, and wastewater treatment plant flows. We selected an event in June of 2025 to provide a prime example of a rain event's effect on our system. We are able to observe how these lift stations have a significant increase to pumping hours on the day of rainfall, as well as many days after. One of the worst appears to increase on June 12th, 2025, and remains with elevated pumping hours until June 19th. When looking at the corresponding WWTP flow data we can also see how this has an extreme effect on the plant. With total flows increasing over %500 and taking 7 days to finally level out to normal. This increases our lift station operating costs, as well as our treatment plant costs. There are also many customer complaints that occur with the system being inundated for long periods of time. It is also important to mention that this is not a new issue to the city. I & I has been prevalent and it is easy to see that based on the design of many components of the infrastructure. This includes the lift stations that have dual pumping systems, and the fact that we built a clarifier at the plant for wet weather events. Also, the WWTP on Henderson was decommissioned due to its state of disrepair. It was less of a financial burden for the city to decommission it and install the lift station to pump it all the current WWTP on the southwest side of town.

In summary there are many needs across our infrastructure that must be met. It appears that we are at a point where we have infrastructure failing at a faster rate as it is all coming to that age at the same time. It is detrimental that we continuously plan to make improvements annually, whilst also providing a funding source for emergency issues as they arise.

RECOMMENDATION: Begin a rehabilitation program for our sanitary sewer system