



## AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** April 25, 2023

**Subject:** Status Update on the Sewer Master Plans (Informational Item)

**Prepared by:** Thanh Nguyen, Senior Civil Engineer

**Reviewed by:** Aida Fairman, Environmental Services and Utilities Director

**Approved by:** Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

**Attachment:**

None

**Initiated by:**

City Council, Staff

**Previous Council Consideration:**

None

**Fiscal Impact:**

None

**Environmental Review:**

Not Applicable

**Summary:**

- The purpose of this staff report is to provide a status update to City Council on the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan and the Sewer System Management Plan.

**Staff Recommendation:**

None

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City Manager

GE

**Reviewed By:**

City Attorney

JH

Finance Director

JD

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**Subject:** Status Update on the Sewer Master Plans

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**Purpose**

Provide information to City Council about the status of the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan and the Sewer System Management Plan.

**Background**

Sanitary Sewer Master Plan

The Master Plan for the City of Los Altos sanitary sewer system was completed and adopted in 2013. The 2013 Master Plan provides the City with a long-range comprehensive plan to guide the upgrade, expansion, and rehabilitation of the City’s sanitary sewer collection system. The Master Plan is referenced to develop annual capital improvement projects (CIP) and plan their corresponding budget. Since the adoption of the 2013 Master Plan, staff has completed many of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects identified in the plan and continues to implement CIP projects that when completed, would improve the reliability of the sanitary sewer system.

Sewer System Management Plan

The City of Los Altos Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) Update and Audit was last completed in 2017. The Sewer System Management Plan is a document required by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) that describes the activities an agency uses to manage its sewer collection system effectively. The SWRCB requires an agency to perform an audit of its SSMP every three years and update its SSMP every six years. On January 19, 2022, the City entered into a professional services agreement with Causey Consulting to perform the SSMP audit and update. The SSMP audit was completed and submitted to the City by the consultant in October 2022. On December 6, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted a new Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Order (Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ) for the Statewide Sanitary Sewer System Waste Discharge Requirements. This Order becomes effective on June 5, 2023, and it contains stricter requirements. Causey Consulting is currently working on updating the SSMP to meet the new WDR Order requirements. This project is expected to be completed by the end of FY 2022/2023.



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## **Discussion/Analysis**

### **Sanitary Sewer Master Plan**

The City of Los Altos provides sewer collection services to City residents, a portion of unincorporated Santa Clara County and also from portions of Los Altos Hills that drain into the City's sewer system. The Sanitary Sewer Master Plan is a document that provides an assessment of the current conditions of the system and outlines recommendations for future capital improvements that would be expected for an aging sewer system. The recommendations provided in the 2013 Master Plan are based on the professional judgment of the consultant after reviewing all the data provided at that time (e.g., the CCTV inspection videos and logs, as-builts, etc.) and their knowledge of industry standards.

Since the adoption of the 2013 Master Plan, staff has prioritized and implemented the Capital Improvement Program recommended in the Master Plan based on the condition assessment of the collection system. The recommendations include but are not limited to:

- **Chemical Root Treatment Program:** Staff continues to perform chemical root treatment at the rate of one-third of the system per year.
- **Fats, Oils, Grease (FOG) program:** Staff implements an annual FOG program to be in compliance with the SWRCB requirements.
- **Geographic Information System (GIS) updates:** the City's GIS is updated with new data, map changes, or inspection results as recommended.
- **Sewer Maintenance Equipment:** Equipment for sewer maintenance has been replaced or purchased on a as-needed basis.
- **Preventative Maintenance:** Staff continues to perform the preventive maintenance program for the collection system since it has effectively reduced Sanitary Sewer Overflows and stoppages.
- **Closed Circuit Television Video (CCTV) inspection program:** Staff developed a Closed Circuit Television Video (CCTV) inspection program, which spanned over a five-year period. This program provides the condition assessment of the sewer mains throughout the City. This program will be completed by the time the next SSMP update begins. The program consists of five projects in which staff divided the City sewer system into five different CCTV zones, and each project is assigned one zone. Staff is currently in the progress of closing out the second project and starting with the third. Due to staff shortages throughout the years, this program is running a few years behind schedule and is anticipated to be completed within the next six years.
- **Sewer Replacement Program:** The City has been implementing a replacement program to replace the existing 6-inch sewer pipes with 8-inch sewer pipes. Some highlight projects are:
  - **Current projects under design:**
    - *Adobe Creek Sewer Main Replacement* consists of replacement, and for some segments realignment, up to approximately 50 sewer main segments located along or near Adobe Creek.



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- *Structural Reach Replacement* consists of eight sewer segments located throughout the City. These segments were identified in the 2013 SSMP that, if replaced, will improve the reliability of the City's sewer system.
- Current projects under construction:
  - *CIPP Corrosion Rehabilitation*, which consists of lining four trunk sewer mains at two locations on El Camino Real. The work area at the first location is between Del Medio Avenue and
  - four sewer pipeline segments at two locations on El Camino Real. The work area at the first location is between Del Medio Avenue and Sherwood Avenue, and the work area at the second location is between Ortega Avenue and S Rengstorff Avenue.
  - *Sewer System Repair Program*, which consists of realigning and replacing five sewer main segments located along First Street between San Antonio Road and Main Street in Downtown Los Altos. This project will replace a total of 1,479 linear feet of sewer pipes.
- Since the adoption of the 2013 SSMP, the following projects have been completed and accepted by City Council:
  - CIPP Corrosion Rehabilitation project in 2020, which consists of 1,459 linear feet of lining along Springer Road
  - CIPP Corrosion Rehabilitation project in 2018, which consists of lining 1,195 linear feet of sewer mains located on Covington Road and Del Medio Avenue
  - Structural Reach Replacement project in 2019, which consists of replacing 3,525 linear feet of replacement of 12 sewer segments located throughout the City
  - South Sewer Replacement project in 2018, which replaced 805 linear feet of sewer mains located throughout the City
  - Sewer System Repair Program in 2018, which replaced 2,480 linear feet of sewer mains throughout the City.

The next update to the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan (SSMP) was initially planned to begin in 2023. However, there are still CCTV inspection projects that were not able to be completed on time due to staff shortages. These CCTV inspection projects will need to be completed before the SSMP can be updated. Therefore, the next Sanitary Sewer Master Plan Update will be deferred until 2028 or 2029, depending on available resources.

#### *Sewer System Management Plan Update and Audit*

It should be noted that the Sewer System Management Plan Update and Audit (SSMP Update and Audit) differs from the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan Update since the SSMP Update and Audit is a specific document and activities required by the SWRCB and focuses primarily on the operation and maintenance practices followed by the City. The SSMP Update and Audit are necessary as



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required per the SWRCB WDR. The audit is typically required every three years, and the update is every six years.

Causey Consulting completed the internal audit report of the SSMP in October 2022. The update was last due in August 2019; however, the audit process did not start until February of 2022 due to unsuccessful to a lack of responses to a Request for Proposals (RFP) and difficulty procuring services to perform the audit. The staff has spent a significant amount of effort procuring a consulting firm that specializes in SSMP updates and auditing. The City entered into an agreement with Causey Consulting in January 2022, and Causey Consulting began work on the audit and update in February 2022.

With the effective date of the new WDR Order, Causey Consulting suggested completing the audit before proceeding to update the SSMP since the findings from the audit should be addressed in the update, and the update needs to be completed after the effective date of the new WDR Order. Causey Consulting is currently working on the update, and the anticipated completion date for this task is June 30, 2023. This update will reflect the new changes and requirements stated in the newly adopted WDR Order in December 2022. Below are some of the significant changes from the new WDR Order (Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ):

- A new Category 4 spill is introduced, and the City shall report and certify all Category 4 spills to the online California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) Sanitary Sewer System Database quarterly, within 15 days after the end of the calendar quarter in which the spills occurred. A Category 4 spill is defined as a spill of less than 50 gallons from or caused by a sanitary sewer system regulated under the General Order that does not discharge to surface water.
- Under section 3.3.4 State Water Board Human Right to Water Resolution. On November 16, 2021, the State Water Board adopted Resolution 2021-0050 titled Condemning Racism, Xenophobia, Bigotry, and Racial Injustice, and Strengthening Commitment to Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Anti-Racism. This Resolution ensures that the State Water Board is committed to protecting public health and beneficial uses of waterbodies in all communities, restoring impaired surface waterbodies and degraded aquifers, and promoting multi-benefit water quality projects. Through Resolution 2021-0050, the State Water Board also commits to expanding implementation of its Climate Change Resolution to address the disproportionate effects of extreme hydrologic conditions and sea-level rise on Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities, prioritizing: the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible drinking water and sanitation, sustainable management and protection of local groundwater resources, healthy watersheds, and access to surface waterbodies that support subsistence fishing. On June 7, 2022, the State Water Board adopted a Resolution titled Authorizing the Executive Director or Designee to Enter into One or More Multi-Year Contracts Up to a Combined Sum of \$4 Million for a Statewide Wastewater Needs Assessment, supporting the equitable access to sanitation for all Californians.



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- Under section 5.12 Spill Emergency Responses Plan and Remedial Actions: It is required that the City updates and implements its Spill Emergency Response Plan within six (6) months of the Adoption Date of the new Order.
- Within six (6) months of the Adoption Date of the new Order, the Legally Responsible Official shall upload the City's existing Sewer System Management Plan to the online CIWQS Sanitary Sewer System Database.
- Other changes mostly involved changes in the terminologies throughout the new Order.