



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL OCTOBER 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Approve Resolution authorizing the filing of a Petition necessary to Convert Existing County Drain Facility in Novi, now known as the Walled Lake-Novı Water Resource Recovery Facility Sewage Disposal System, into a Chapter 20 Drain to be identified as Walled Lake-Novı Water Resource Recovery Facility Drain.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Department of Public Works, Engineering Division

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Current arrangement between the City and the County involves a system known as the Walled Lake-Novı Water Resource Recovery Facility Sewage Disposal System owned and operated by the County under Act 342.
- County Water Resource Commissioner (WRC) recently asked the City to approve a petition to convert a portion of the existing system (mostly relating to its underground facilities to a Chapter 20 system within the City and a Chapter 21 system for the portions outside the City and City Council approved that petition at its August 11, 2025, meeting. The petition is currently going through the process at the County level to complete the conversion under the Darain Code.
- This is a related request by WRC to convert the County's water treatment plant, located roughly at West Park Drive and West Road into a Chapter 20 Drain as well.
- WRC believes that the conversion benefits both the City and WRC; City Administration does not object to the conversion.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Walled Lake–Novı Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) provides essential wastewater treatment services for the City of Walled Lake, the City of Novı, and portions of Commerce Township, which Novı serves under an inter-community agreement.

The plant's infrastructure is aging, including its treatment processes, mechanical equipment, and electrical systems. These conditions present both challenges and

opportunities: while the facility continues to provide reliable service, proactive reinvestment is essential to extend the useful life of the WWTP for the foreseeable future. This petition seeks to establish the appropriate legal and financial structure to address these aging assets and implement the improvements necessary to ensure that the Walled Lake-Novı WWTP remains a dependable, compliant, and sustainable facility for decades to come.

At its August 11, 2025 meeting, the City Council approved Resolutions to allow the City to file Petitions with WRC to create the "Huron Rouge Sanitary Drain" under Chapter 20 of the Drain Code and the "Rouge Valley Sanitary Intercounty Drain" under Chapter 21 of the Drain Code to convert most of the underground sanitary facilities for which WRC provides service from their current status as Act 342 Drains.

This request by WRC for a Resolution and Petition relate essentially to the "rest" of the WRC facilities in the City, primarily encompassing the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), which the County has asked to be designated a Chapter 20 drain to be called the "Walled Lake-Novı Water Resource Recovery Facility Drain." Attached are the proposed Resolutions and Petition prepared by WRC to begin the process as occurred with the August agenda item. Also included in the packet are materials explaining the likely improvement to be made to the WWTP in the coming years and an explanation why the Chapter 21 process is being proposed.

City staff are amenable to the conversions proposed by WRC.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Resolution authorizing the filing of a Petition necessary to Convert Existing County Drain Facility in Novi, now known as the Walled Lake-Novı Water Resource Recovery Facility Sewage Disposal System, into a Chapter 20 Drain to be identified as Walled Lake-Novı Water Resource Recovery Facility Drain.