



AGENDA MEMO

Business of the City Council City of Sweeny, Texas

Meeting Date	04.25.2023	Agenda Item	
Approved by City Manager	Yes	Presenter(s)	Keyur Gorgi, P.E., Water Equipment and Treatment Services
Reviewed by City Attorney	No	Department	Water
Subject	Discussion and possible action on an update on the water softer rehab project.		
Attachments	None		
Financial Information	Expenditure Required:	N/A	
	Amount Budgeted:	N/A	
	Account Number:		
	Additional Appropriation Required:		
	Additional Account Number:		

Executive Summary

At the special City Council meeting held on April 10, 2023, the City Council voted to rehab 2 of 3 water softeners after staff and consultants found that the condition of the softeners required repair to operate. The softeners were taken offline and bypassed. TCEQ was notified, and regular water treatment has continued.

At the most basic level, the water softeners operate by removing naturally occurring metallics in the water, such as iron and manganese, and replaces it with sodium. This process works inside the softeners using resin also referred to as media to attract the unwanted substances and remove them.

The water softeners were determined to need resin replacement and work on the internal filters. Water Equipment and Treatment Services (WETS) arrived onsite to begin work on Saturday, April 15, 2023 and found the third softener, which was not used on a consistent basis, is also in need of the same repair. No work has been approved for the 3rd softener – only Softeners 1 and 2. To use Softener 3, it would need to be rehabbed and included in an approved corrosion control study to gain authorization from TCEQ to put online.

The replacement media was ordered on Monday, April 17, 2023 and is anticipated to arrive within a few weeks.

Of note, the City is still undergoing construction on the water main line replacement project and does not have authorization to use polyphosphate from TCEQ, the regulatory agency charged with public water system oversight. Once the softeners are repaired and back online, we do not believe that will completely eliminate the observed water coloration. The City is awaiting a response from TCEQ to use a treatment substance called orthophosphate.

Recommended Action

No recommended action.