

COUNCIL AGENDA MEMO – April 23, 2013

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation of the Wastewater Pretreatment Program including a discussion of comments received, cost-benefit analysis, and proposed sewer use ordinance

Approved By:

Date:

Department Head: Mark Nietupski	4/15/2013
Finance Director: Mark Woodfill	
City Manager: Craig McConnell	

Background

On March 13, 2012, City Council awarded a contract to ARCADIS US, Inc., for completion of the Wastewater Pretreatment Program to comply with federal and state regulations. ARCADIS' work has been focused on developing regulatory and guidance program documents in conformance with ADEQ and EPA criteria.

On February 5, 2013, a presentation of the project status and direction forward with next steps was provided to City Council and the public.

The City hosted stakeholder meetings on February 21, 28, and March 7, 2013, to provide opportunities for commercial and industrial users of the City sanitary sewer system to receive information and comment on the recommended Wastewater Pretreatment Program. On March 12, 2013, a public hearing was held opening a 30-day public comment period from March 12 to April 12, 2013.

The Pretreatment Program objectives are to: comply with pretreatment regulations, maintain compliance with wastewater treatment facility Aquifer Protection Permits, protect the treatment facilities from upset, facilitate control of pollutant discharges into the collection system, maintain high effluent and biosolids quality, and protect the environment, citizens, and employees from hazardous discharges.

The City received and responded to public comments via weekly postings to the City website. A summary of the comments and responses is attached. Guidance documents have been generated and must be submitted to ADEQ outlining program delivery procedures. Examples of these documents include applications and permit templates, inspection checklists, compliance monitoring guidelines, and other administrative procedures for implementing the program.

A cost-benefit analysis has been prepared which broadly defines potential benefit outcomes that may occur with implementation of a pretreatment program. The analysis illustrates potential cost savings in wastewater operations and maintenance that may be realized and other benefits expected. Due to individual user site specific conditions and potential needs, which are unknown at this time, it is not possible to predict individual user costs.

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Site specific conditions will be documented during the commercial user outreach phase of the program which will supplement a future revision to the cost-benefit analysis. The fully developed cost-benefit analysis will be presented to Council at a future time. (As stated in the Q&A summary the “Chapter 2-1 Public Works Department” does not contain provisions to issue permits to commercial users at this time.) A few examples of cost savings that could be achieved with the pretreatment program include reduction in the required supplies, decline of electricity consumption at the wastewater treatment plant, and reduced man-hours associated with grease-attributed conditions. Examples of benefits that could be realized with the pretreatment program include reduced odors, improved water quality, protection of City infrastructure investments, and reduction in personnel costs for regulatory inquiries.

The Wastewater Pretreatment Program requires an amendment to City Code Title II Chapter 2-1: Public Works Department. Generally speaking the existing City Code, Chapters 2-1-1 through 2-1-60, has been updated for clarity (personnel, abbreviations) and to supplement existing pretreatment regulations. New sections of City Code, Chapters 2-1-61 through 2-1-75, have been added to provide the legal authority to process discharge permits (issue, transfer, revoke), define the enforcement process, identify reporting requirements and compliance monitoring, establish fees, and for administrative appeals and judicial reviews.

Attachments

- Revised City Code Chapter 2-1
- Summary of public questions/comments received during the public comment period (March 12 – April 12, 2013)

Recommended Action: For discussion / direction only. An ordinance amending the City Code will be brought back at a subsequent meeting.