

E Environment Committee

Business Item
Item: 2010-320

Meeting date: September 14, 2010

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 22, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	August 31, 2010
Subject:	Acceptance of Demand Charge Task Force Report and Approval of Ongoing Infiltration/Inflow Reduction Program
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes 473.517; Water Resources Management Policy Plan
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Bryce Pickart 651-602-1091; Jason Willett 651-602-1196
Division/Department:	MCES c/o William G. Moore 651-602-1162

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council hereby: (1) accepts the 2010 Demand Charge Task Force Report; and (2) authorizes its staff to develop and implement procedures for the on-going Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) reduction program, consistent with the salient features in Exhibit A.

Background

In August 2009, the Council appointed a task force of 18 customer community representatives, chaired by Council member Wendy Wulff, to develop recommendations regarding the timing and details of a demand charge program and other elements of the I/I program. The Task Force has completed its work, and a final report has been prepared.

Key recommendations of the Task Force include:

1. Add an on-going I/I Reduction Program beginning in 2013.
Rationale: Updated analysis of regional wastewater system capacity indicates that capacity is adequate for several years longer than the previous analysis. Further, I/I reduction is part of on-going infrastructure maintenance.
2. Revise the demand charge program, using "trigger" criteria instead of a date for implementation.
Rationale: Conveyance and treatment of excessive I/I should be a "last resort" to address regulatory compliance or community inaction.

These recommendations have been incorporated into a proposed amendment to the Water Resources Management Policy Plan, which is scheduled to be adopted by the Council on September 8, 2010.

The next step is to develop procedures to implement the on-going I/I reduction program. Exhibit A presents the recommended salient features, based on the final Demand Charge Task Force Report.

Rationale

This action authorizes staff to develop and implement the on-going I/I reduction program.

Funding

N/A

Known Support/Opposition

Proposed action is based on recommendations of the Demand Charge Task Force.

Exhibit A

Salient Features of On-Going Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) Reduction Program

A. Allowable I/I

1. Continue to determine allowable I/I by metershed, using MCES standard peaking factors.
2. Evaluate and develop an improved method for determining allowable I/I that better accounts for age and type of sewer system, risk of overflows and backups, historical flow variability and components, and system hydraulics.

B. Procedures

1. Determine base flow over time (e.g. 10 years) to normalize the effects of drought and wet periods.
2. Adjust for water conservation, I/I mitigation, growth, and I/I into MCES interceptors.
3. Utilize a four-year I/I mitigation period beginning with the exceedance's billing year.
4. Allow a one-year look-back period to provide an incentive for communities to perform on-going I/I mitigation work.
5. Continue cap on required I/I mitigation work at 25% of community's annual municipal wastewater charge.

C. Appeals

1. Locating I/I Sources: If a community spends significant funds in trying to locate I/I sources without success, allow community to appeal to extend or defer the I/I mitigation period until I/I sources are found or a mitigation plan can be developed in the absence of specific location information.
2. MCES I/I Mitigation Cost Assumption:
 - a. Community may appeal to reduce the mitigation cost if the actual cost of I/I mitigation is shown to be less than the estimated cost.
 - b. Community may appeal the estimated mitigation cost if the actual cost of I/I mitigation is estimated to be more than the cost of storage, conveyance, and treatment of excess I/I. The appeal would initiate a joint study by the community and MCES.
3. Rainfall Event: If a community is making progress on I/I mitigation, allow community to appeal a peak flow event based on unusual conditions or extraordinary circumstances.