

**E Environment Committee
Meeting date: September 14, 2010**

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	September 10, 2010
Subject:	Authorization to Hold a Public Meeting Regarding the Recommendations of the Reserve Capacity/ (Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) Task Force
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-2-5; Water Resources Management Policy Plan; MN Statute 473.517
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Jason Willett 651-602-1096; Bryce Pickart 651-602-1091
Division/Department:	MCES c/o William G. Moore 651-602-1162

Proposed Action

That the Environment Committee authorizes staff to hold a public meeting regarding the recommendations of the Reserve Capacity/SAC task force.

Background

The task force has recommended, among other things, that a public meeting be held to gather input on all of their recommendations. Given that i) once public input is received staff will come back to the Committee and Council for consideration of adopting certain changes and that ii) any changes need to be adopted by mid-December for incorporation into the 2011 SAC Procedure Manual, the schedule works best if we plan the public meeting for early October. The Reserve Capacity/SAC Task Force completed its recommendations at its meeting on September 7, 2010. The final task force report will be available by late September.

The most material of the recommendations is that the Council pursue changes to the State law that requires the Council to charge local government units the costs of 'reserve capacity' built into the metropolitan sewer system for future use. Instead of using a method of measuring reserve capacity the recommendation is simply that SAC pay the cost of growth projects. Additionally some changes to the commercial SAC, most notably to restaurants, are proposed.

The public meeting is proposed to be held in the Council's offices on October 12 following the Environment Committee meeting, with a 10-day written comment period thereafter.

Rationale

The public meeting will allow for input from all interested parties prior to any Council action on this matter.

This public meeting process was followed twice in 2009, when a revision to the Reserve Capacity methodology and a change to SAC criteria for outside spaces were proposed and implemented.

Funding

NA

Known Support / Opposition

The task force is supportive. The restaurant criteria change may have some opposition.