

**E** Environment Committee  
**Meeting date: November 8, 2011**  
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 14, 2011

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date:** November 1, 2011  
**Subject:** Authorization to Hold a Public Hearing for a Draft Facility Plan Amendment for the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, MCES Project No. 801800  
**District(s), Member(s):** District 4 Gary Van Eyll; District 3 Jennifer Munt; District 1 Roxanne Smith  
**Policy/Legal Reference:** PFA Loan Requirement  
**Staff Prepared/Presented:** William (Bill) Cook 651-602-1811  
**Division/Department:** MCES c/o William G. Moore 651-602-1162

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its General Manager of Environmental Services to schedule and hold a public hearing for the draft Facility Plan Amendment for the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project, MCES project number 801800.

**Background**

A public hearing is required for a draft facility plan amendment prior to its adoption by the Metropolitan Council as condition for obtaining project financing through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority.

**Rationale**

The Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) uses approximately 42 MWhrs of electrical energy each day, with a minimum demand of about 1.4 MW each day.

This project provides for the construction of a 1.25 MW AC solar panel facility to supplement the utility power system and to provide a base line of power to the facility. Alternatives were developed to explore the life cycle cost effectiveness of the size of the facility and the tracking technologies available.

The tracking alternatives consisted of fixed arrays, single axis tracking arrays and dual axis tracking arrays. The fixed arrays were the most cost effective alternative. The size alternatives evaluated the sensitivity to energy production capacity.

When considering the grant amounts available to this project to offset the power costs, the 1.25 MW AC solar panel facility was the most cost effective alternative and requires a grant amount of \$4,400,000 to make the option an economic break-even consideration. The project is estimated to cost \$6,800,000.

**Funding**

Funding for this project will consist of budget from the Blue Lake Project 801800 and a grant(s) from other sources, such as principle forgiveness loan under PFA's Green Project Reserve (GPR) program, as well as State Bonding.

**Known Support / Opposition**

To be determined.