

METRO CITIES

Association of Metropolitan Municipalities

January 6, 2012

Mr. Jason Willett
Finance Director, Metropolitan Council Environment Services
300 North Robert Street
St Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. Willett:

This letter is a follow up to our December meeting with city officials from Maple Plain regarding the city's concerns about the rate of increase in the city's wastewater charge.

At the meeting, we discussed the reasons for the increase and potential options around whether the city's bill could be paid over a period of time. I understand that the Council's flexibility with regard to the timing of these payments may not be clear. The purpose of this letter is to request that MCES explore its authority and possible options to assist cities in cases where the city's charge represents a significant increase and financial challenge for the city.

Metro Cities understands that the Council has such flexibility with regard to SAC payments and the Inflow and Infiltration Surcharge program. We would suggest that MCES explore options along these lines with regard to the wastewater charge.

We would suggest that MCES work with Metro Cities to coordinate a meeting with MCES and city officials to explore possible options, criteria, etc.. Metro Cities recognizes that any alternative methods around the timing of payment for these charges must not sacrifice equity for other ratepayers, and must be financially prudent for both the Metropolitan Council and individual cities.

Metro Cities understands that myriad issues may need to be resolved before any options could be established and that the time line for a potential resolution to this issue may not address the immediate challenges for the city of Maple Plain. To this end, we would ask that the Council work with city officials from Maple Plain to reach a solution that allows the city some flexibility, while these issues are discussed and addressed on a more systemic scale.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you on these issues.

Sincerely,



Patricia Nauman
Executive Director