

Environment Committee

Meeting date: October 24, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 8, 2017

Subject: Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Sanitary Sewer System Responsibilities with the City of Minneapolis

District(s), Member(s): 6, Dorfman; 7, Cunningham; 8, Letofsky

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes 473.504 and 471.59

Staff Prepared/Presented: Bryce Pickart, 651-602-1091

Division/Department: MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Minneapolis regarding sanitary sewer system responsibilities in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

Background

Historically the City of Minneapolis had a combined sanitary and storm sewer system connected to the Council's interceptor system. During significant rainfall and snowmelt conditions, capacity of the City and/or Council system was exceeded, causing releases to the Mississippi River. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regulates these sewer systems and has authorized releases during wet weather via NPDES Permit for Combined Sewer Overflows, issued jointly to the City and Council.

The City has substantially completed separation of its sanitary and storm sewer systems, although sources of inflow and infiltration remain, given the system's age and historical interconnectedness of these systems. Nevertheless, there have been no releases to the river since 2006, except for two small releases in 2010, which were caused by a City infrastructure failure.

MPCA intends to terminate the NPDES Permit for Combined Sewer Overflows. The proposed intergovernmental agreement between the City and the Council defines operation and maintenance responsibilities regarding facilities that inter-connect, incorporates the on-going inflow and infiltration program, and identifies a joint study of the City and Council sewer systems, with the goal to inform future investments to maintain adequate sewer capacity in the City's systems and the Council system.

Rationale

This agreement is important for regulatory compliance and effective asset management to achieve public health and water quality goals.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the following Thrive Outcomes and Principles:

- Stewardship by protecting the region's natural resources and balancing efficient and effective use of public financial resources;
- Sustainability by providing leadership, information and technical assistance to local government partners; and
- Integration and Collaboration by working with the City of Minneapolis and various divisions within MCES.

Funding

Funds are provided in the MCES capital and operating budgets as needed to implement repairs or renewal in amounts not to exceed \$100,000 each.

Known Support / Opposition

The City of Minneapolis supports this agreement.