

Environment Committee

Meeting date: March 13, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 28, 2018

Subject: Request for Public Hearing on Proposed Facility Plan Amendment for Minneapolis Interceptor Rehabilitation

District(s), Member(s): District 7, Gary Cunningham; District 8, Gail Dorfman; District 13, Richard Kramer; District 14, Jon Commers

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Public Financing Authority Loan Requirement

Staff Prepared/Presented: Scott Dentz 651-602-4503; Jeannine Clancy 651-602-1210

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing for the proposed amendment to the Facility Plan for the Minneapolis Interceptor Rehabilitation Project, Phase 2, Project Number 8076.

Background

Interceptor inspections, condition assessment, and flow control and level monitoring needs require renovation, reconfiguration, and rehabilitation of a number of MCES regulator structures and associated interceptors in the Minneapolis and St. Paul service area. The proposed improvements will maintain and improve the integrity of MCES' facilities, minimize the risk of overflows that could pose a threat to public safety and health, and improve system reliability. The planning study assessed facility condition information, reviewed wastewater flow projections, identified and evaluated alternatives for improvements, and recommended an alternative to implement for each facility.

The current adopted facility plan recommends realignment of a segment of 1-MN-344 between regulator R04 and interceptor 1-MN-340 and reconstruction of regulator R04. It also recommended odor control improvements to two drop shafts on interceptor 1-MN-340.

Design was underway for the replacement R04 and 1-MN-344 realignment work when it was determined that groundwater dewatering necessary for construction may affect flow to the Coldwater Spring. Coldwater Spring has significant cultural and religious significance to the Native American Community. Furthermore, State statute prohibits any activity that may impact the groundwater flow to Coldwater Spring. Design work was stopped while alternatives were re-evaluated. In addition, further examination of the two drop shafts revealed extensive corrosion damage that requires rehabilitation.

The revised recommendation for the regulator R04 and 1-MN-344 work is to rehabilitate these facilities using methods that will not impact groundwater flow to Coldwater Spring. The revised recommendations are:

- Lining/slip-lining of the 1-MN-344 tunnel
- Refurbishment and rehabilitation of the existing regulator R04
- Rehabilitation of drop shafts A1 and D1

Rationale

A public hearing is required for a proposed amendment to an adopted facility plan prior to the amendment adoption by the Metropolitan Council. This is a condition for obtaining project financing through the Minnesota Public Financing Authority.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship. Public financial resources will be invested efficiently and effectively to maintain and restore existing capacity to existing wastewater infrastructure which protects the region's natural resources.

Funding

Funds for the project are included in the 2018 Capital Program. MCES has submitted this project to the Minnesota Public Financing Authority for inclusion in its 2018 Intended Use Plan.

Known Support / Opposition

Members of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community and individuals from Friends of Coldwater have expressed interest and concern.