

Environment Committee

Meeting date: March 23, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 14, 2021

Subject: Joint Use Agreement for MCES ERS07 and Minneapolis Central City Storm Tunnel, Contract 211011

District(s), Member(s): District 7, Robert, Lilligren

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 471.59 Joint Powers Authority; MN Statute 473.504 Wastewater Services, Powers

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jeff Schwarz, 651-602-1176; Adam Gordon, 651-602-4503

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to enter into a Joint Use Agreement (Agreement) with the City of Minneapolis (City) to accommodate City construction of the proposed Central City Storm Tunnel (Project) in 2021-2022. There are no Metropolitan Council expenditures related to this agreement.

Background

Historically, the City had a combined sanitary and storm sewer system connected to the Council's interceptor system. The City separated its sanitary and storm sewer systems. However, some City and Council facilities remained inter-connected, including Emergency Relief Structure ERS07 that handles both City storm and Council sanitary sewer flows separately. ERS07 was last renovated by the City and Council in 2009 under Joint Use Agreement 09I003. That agreement defined City and Council responsibilities during renovation, and continued access following renovation.

The City is planning the Central City Storm Tunnel project to increase storm capacity and reduce pressurization in existing downtown storm tunnels. The project includes installation of a 12' diameter tunnel under Washington Avenue from Hennepin to Chicago Avenues. A portion of the tunnel will pass under a shaft that provides access to both City and Council facilities. The work will require removal of the bottom section of the access shaft, relocation of an access ladder and door, and relocating an existing City sanitary sewer. All work will be conducted and paid for by the City.

Rationale

A new Joint Use Agreement is required to define City and Council responsibilities during the Central City Storm Tunnel project, and continued access following the project. This agreement is important for effective asset management to achieve public health and water quality goals.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive Outcomes of Stewardship by protecting the region's natural resources and balancing efficient and effective use of public financial resources and Sustainability by optimizing surface water use.

Funding

None required.

Known Support / Opposition

The City of Minneapolis supports entering into this agreement.