

Environment Committee

Meeting date: February 8, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 23, 2022

Subject: Adopt Facility Plan for the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant, MCES Project No. 809800

District(s), Member(s): District 16; Wendy Wulff

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Rule 7077.0272, subpart 3

Staff Prepared/Presented: Heidi Hutter, 651-602-1026; Chad Davison, 651-602-4031

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the facility plan for the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant, MCES Project No. 809800 per Resolution No. 2022-3.

Background

The Facility Plan recommends relocating the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant from downtown Hastings to Council-owned property at 2445 Ravenna Trail, Hastings MN to meet the capacity needs of the long-term service area and respond to potential future regulatory requirements within the planning period. The work of the Facility Plan is generally grouped into three categories: a new lift station and conveyance system, a new wastewater treatment plant and outfall, and decommissioning the existing wastewater treatment plant. Implementation is based on the sequence of construction activities required to relocate Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant Service with construction activities starting in 2024 and concluding in 2028.

The Facility Plan was made available for public review on December 22, 2021. A virtual public hearing was conducted on January 5, 2022 and was attended by 20 people, not otherwise identified as presenters or producers at the hearing. Three (3) questions were asked during the public hearing. Eleven (11) questions were received before the public hearing from area residents and one environmental consultant. Some of these questions were answered by MCES, via email, prior to the public hearing; these questions and available answers concerning site selection and purchase, facility siting and impacts to surrounding infrastructure, and construction cost and risk, were read aloud during the comment period of the public hearing. Eleven (11) questions were received during the public hearing from area residents, Hastings City Council Member, Tina Folch, and Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Council Member, Michael Childs. These questions concerning decommissioning of the existing plant, noise and odor, the 106 process, and the outfall to the Mississippi River were responded to during the hearing with follow up as appropriate. No questions were received after the public hearing.

Following adoption by the Metropolitan Council, the Facility Plan will be submitted to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in conjunction with an application for placement of the project on the Project Priority List for funding through the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund beginning in fiscal year 2023.

Rationale

Public Facilities Authority (PFA) loan funding eligibility requires formal adoption of the Facility Plan by Resolution (attached), following a public hearing on the draft Facility Plan.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive outcome of stewardship, livability, and sustainability. Public financial resources will be invested efficiently and effectively to provide additional wastewater infrastructure capacity, which fosters economic growth and protects the regions natural resources.

Funding

The 2022 Capital program funding is sufficient for planning and design. Future funding will be requested as needed.

Known Support / Opposition

MCES staff is not aware of opposition to the project.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION NO. 2022-3
RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE
Facility Plan for the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant
PROJECT NO. 809800

WHERE AS:

1. The Metropolitan Council is a public corporation and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota and has statutory responsibility for operating the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area regional wastewater collection and treatment system, and
2. The Metropolitan Council is a public corporation and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota and has statutory responsibility for operating the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area regional wastewater collection and treatment system, and
3. The Metropolitan Council has determined it is necessary and convenient for the fulfillment of its statutory responsibilities to construct the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant, Project Number 809800, and
4. A draft Facility Plan for the project has been completed and a public hearing was held on January 5, 2022 to discuss the proposed project and the draft Facility Plan

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL,

that the Facility Plan for the
Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant
PROJECT NO. 809800

is hereby approved and adopted.

Adopted this 23rd day of February, 2022.

Charles A. Zelle, Chair

Elizabeth Sund, Recording Secretary