

Business Item

Environment Committee



Committee Meeting Date: November 12, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: December 11, 2024

Business Item: 2024-314

2023 Newport Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Grant

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Session Laws – 2023 Regular Session, Art. 1, Sec. 5, and the Council Policy 3-3-1 (Grant/Loan Approval)
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Matt Gsellmeier (651-602-1802) and Kyle Colvin (651-602-1151)
Division/Department:	MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the awarding of \$2.75 million from the 2023 Minnesota Session Laws to the City of Newport and authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a grant agreement with the city to reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration (I/I) to the sanitary sewer disposal system.

Background

Due to its proximity to the Mississippi and the impact that flood conditions have on the city of Newport's sanitary sewer collection systems, and the installation method that these sewers were constructed (bedrock trenches), and the age and pipe material use at the time of its construction, the City's wastewater system is severely impacted by excessive I/I. The city has been identified as a contributor of excessive I/I to the regional interceptor system under the Council's Regional I/I Mitigation Program and has been assigned I/I work plans in the past. The city received a \$2.75 million grant from the 2023 Minnesota Legislature for to further its efforts in reducing excess I/I from entering the local sanitary sewer collection system. The Council was named in the grant legislation as the administer of the grant to the city.

Rationale

The expected improvement in public infrastructure from these grants will benefit the region as future regional capital spending on sewer system expansion can be avoided. This occurs as the unused capacity in the system can be used, as originally planned, to accommodate future growth as opposed to excess I/I.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This grant to Newport supports the repair of sewer infrastructure, and directly ties in with the Council's sustainability outcome. By assisting with the repair of infrastructure, MCES is making a commitment to the long-term well-being of our region by protecting the general public and the environment from backups or spills that result from excess I/I.

Funding

A \$2.75 million appropriation from 2023 Minnesota Session laws was approved on May 24, 2023, and funds have already been received by the Council. Funds will be disbursed to Newport on a reimbursement basis and are included in the 2025 budget. Funds will also be included in the 2026 budget when it is created next year. Funds need to be fully distributed by June 30, 2026.