

## Environment Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 25, 2013

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**Subject:** Authorization to Amend Memorandum of Understanding with City of Minneapolis Regarding Comprehensive Sewer Plan

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### **Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administration to negotiate and execute an amendment to the memorandum of understanding with the City of Minneapolis to extend the submittal date for its comprehensive sewer plan update.

### **Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions**

Council member Van Eyll asked if staff has an idea of when the elimination of combined sewer overflows (CSO) in Minneapolis will be realized. He also asked about CSO events in Saint Paul and other communities. Staff explained that the strategy is to develop a plan over the next 2-3 years to further reduce the potential for overflows in Minneapolis. There have been only two small overflows in Minneapolis in eight years. Both were caused by a city storm sewer inflow into the adjacent sanitary sewer due to erosion of the sandstone. The city made emergency repairs. An overflow may still occur during a very large rainfall event. There have been no overflows in Saint Paul.

Motion to approve the proposed action was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

## Environment Committee

Meeting date: September 10, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 25, 2013

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**Subject:** Authorization to Amend Memorandum of Understanding with City of Minneapolis Regarding Comprehensive Sewer Plan

**District(s), Member(s):** District 6, James Brimeyer; 7, Gary Cunningham; 8, Adam Duininck

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statutes 473.175

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Bryce Pickart, Assistant General Manager, Technical Services, 651-602-1091

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

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### Proposed Action

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### Background

In 2009, the City of Minneapolis and the Metropolitan Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding relating to combined sewer overflow elimination efforts. The City and the Council are co-permittees on an NPDES Permit for combined sewer overflows. This permit authorizes overflows to the river during extreme wet weather events, with the long-term goal of eliminating combined sewer overflows. The Memorandum of Understanding outlines the City and Council joint and separate efforts to eliminate combined sewer overflows.

The proposed amendment extends the submittal date for the City to update its comprehensive sewer plan to identify additional improvements to reduce the potential for overflows. The Council and the City each need additional time to evaluate sewer system responses during wet weather and then to optimize additional public infrastructure investments.

### Rationale

This amendment makes the submittal date for the comprehensive sewer plan update consistent with the 2018 comprehensive plan updates, unless there is an intervening regulatory driver.

### Funding

None required.

### Known Support / Opposition:

The City of Minneapolis supports this amendment.