

Environment Committee

Meeting date: September 11, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 26, 2018

Subject: Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for West Meters Odor Mitigation
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Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council ratify the attached Justification for and Declaration of Emergency for Odor Mitigation at the West Meters.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Committee Member Letofsky thanked staff for addressing the odor in the area as she had heard comments from constituents.

Council Member Melander asked what the new carbon mixture would address. Staff stated that presently the vessels contain an activated carbon product that is very effective in removal of hydrogen sulfide odors. When the hydrogen sulfide odor is removed other underlying odorous compounds became apparent called methyl mercaptans (rotten garbage dead animal odor) that are more difficult to address. The new carbon mix will include potassium permanganate to address the methyl mercaptans.

Staff clarified that the Emergency Declaration cost estimate is \$200,000. The final estimate is not known at this time.

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Subject: Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for West Meters Odor Mitigation

District(s), Member(s): District 8, Cara Letofsky

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3 - Expenditures

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 ratify the attached Justification for and Declaration of Emergency for Odor Mitigation at the West Meters.

Background

Odor complaint frequency has increased over the past 3 months for the Minneapolis West Meters area (Lake Street and West River Road). The local residents are complaining of “dead animal” odors coming from the odor control system that was recently commissioned in Fall 2017. The first documented complaint was received June 18, 2018.

The dual 20,000 cubic feet per minute carbon vessel system utilizes carbon to absorb hydrogen sulfide from air drawn from the interceptor system upstream of the Lake Street siphon. Testing of the air was conducted at two locations on each vessel (intake and where treated air is exhausted). Data shows that the system is removing hydrogen sulfide very well. It also shows that other compounds in the air stream are causing the foul “dead animal” odor. The carbon presently being used was not intended to remove those odors.

The estimated cost is \$200,000. The selected vendor will tailor a carbon blend to treat the odor and ship it to the site. Council staff will remove the old carbon and replace it with the new blend. The carbon will be replaced in one of the vessels at a time; and its performance then evaluated. The carbon blend can then be adjusted if needed for the second vessel and carbon replacement in the first vessel.

It will take approximately two weeks to receive the replacement carbon on-site.

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council has delegated authority to the Regional Administrator to declare emergencies on behalf of the Council when the health, safety, or welfare of the public is compromised, or potentially compromised, and immediate action is required to address the emergency. The emergency declaration is then presented to the appropriate implementation committee for approval and placed on a following Council consent list for formal ratification.

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

The estimated cost for the emergency work is \$200,000. This work will be funded out of the Interceptor Services Business Unit operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.



EMERGENCY DECLARATION FORM

"A declared public emergency is an emergency situation in which the health, safety or welfare of the public or the safety of Metropolitan Council employees or facilities is compromised or potentially compromised and requires immediate action to correct."

I REQUEST THAT A PUBLIC EMERGENCY BE DECLARED, BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING:

Describe the nature of the emergency situation.

The West Meter Odor Control Facility was placed into operation approximately one year ago. It consists of two 20,000 cfm carbon vessels.

Since the Units have been in operation the Metropolitan Council has received numerous odor complaints from the residents in the neighborhood. The odor is not the usual "rotten egg" H2S odor but instead a odor similar to a "rotten decaying animal" and test data bears that out. Review of recent test data indicates the H2S removal values of these units to be reasonable. The foul odors observed do not have a H2S origin.

Explain why this situation is a present, immediate, and existing emergency.

The Council needs to resolve the odor issues promptly. Odor complaints are being received on a daily basis. The odor issues need to be resolved expeditiously as it impacts public health and will become a public relations problem if not handled swiftly.

Explain how this emergency does or will affect the healthy, safety, or welfare of the public or the safety of Metropolitan Council employees or facilities.

Exposure to odorous air can be nauseating and cause headaches. The consequence of long term exposure has been argued to be unhealthy and may cause illness. At the least the odors prevent the public enjoyment of their properties and the parks.

Describe the supplies or services which must be acquired to remedy this emergency situation, including the estimated cost.

A custom blend of carbon materials is needed to treat the odors. Three vendors have been contacted regarding the needed odor analysis and carbon materials.

Procurement needs to be expedited to enable quick resolution of problem.

Estimated Cost: \$200,000

Identify how you chose the contractor(s).

Quotes have been requested from Evoqua, General Carbon, and Jacobi Carbon.. As of 9/5/18 only General Carbon has responded.

I hereby certify that the information presented on this form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Requestor Signature

Dentz, Scott
 Signature

_____ Date

Division Director/General Manager Signature

Thompson, Leisa
 Signature

9/5/2018 1:49:00 PM
 _____ Date

Based on the above information, an emergency situation exists within the meaning of the Council Procurement Policy. Carrying out the competitive bidding process and the technical requirements of the Council's Procurement Policy, and awaiting Council declaration of an emergency and approval for the purchase of materials or supplies or the making of emergency repairs would significantly and unacceptably delay the commencement of repair work on the above-referenced project. The Metropolitan Council, by its Procurement Policy, has delegated authority to the Regional Administrator to declare an emergency on behalf of the Council in such cases. Therefore, I declare on behalf of the Metropolitan Council, that an emergency exists as described above and that the emergency situation requires the immediate purchase of materials or supplies or the making of emergency repairs. I authorize the General Manager/Division Director named above to let appropriate contracts and make payments for the purchase of materials or supplies or the making of repairs necessary to meet the emergency situation without advertising for bids, without meeting other technical requirements of Council Procurement Policy, and without prior approval of the Council. If the costs to correct the emergency situation total \$100,000 or more, I direct that this emergency declaration and any such contracts and/or payments be presented to the Metropolitan

Council for formal ratification at its next meeting.

Regional Administrator Signature

Kooistra, Wes
Signature

9/5/2018 5:02:00 PM
Date