

Environment Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 28, 2020

Subject: Public Hearing Request for Lift Station L32 Draft Facility Plan Project in Fridley, MCES Project No. 809400

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing on December 17, 2020 to gather input on the draft Facility Plan for Lift Station L32A (Fridley) Project, MCES Project No. 809400.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Committee Member Zeran asked about the plan for the unused portion of the site and if consideration was being made for potential solar array or green space. Staff have been in discussions with the City of Fridley on how to use the site. Seven acres will be needed for the lift station. The remainder of the site has setback requirements due to homes and bluffs in the area as well as 3.5 acres of wetland. Tim Wedin indicated that the utilization of the remnant parcel for a solar array had not been considered due to the presence of mature, high quality trees.

Jeannine Clancy, Assistant General Manager, commented this is an important site to the City of Fridley. Options for the remnant parcel will be determined as time goes on as it is separate from the facility plan.

Chair Lindstrom inquired about ideas the City of Fridley has for use of the space. Staff stated the City had contemplated single family housing; however, the need to protect the wetland and the layout make it a single-entry development only allowing for housing on one side of the street. This increases the cost of the infrastructure and makes the project challenging from a cost-benefit perspective. The City is also interested in some access to the Mississippi River. A number of conversations are occurring at this time.

Environment Committee

Meeting date: October 13, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 28, 2020

Subject: Public Hearing Request for Lift Station L32 Draft Facility Plan Project in Fridley, MCES Project No. 809400

District(s), Member(s): District 2 Reva Chamblis

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Rule 7077.0272, subpart 3

Staff Prepared/Presented: Tim Wedin, 651-602-4571

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing on December 17, 2020 to gather input on the draft Facility Plan for Lift Station L32A (Fridley) Project, MCES Project No. 809400.

Background

A public hearing is required for a draft facility plan prior to its adoption by the Metropolitan Council as a condition for obtaining project financing through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. If authorized by the Metropolitan Council, a virtual public hearing will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

Rationale

Lift Station L32 is a 50-year-old facility, which is in need of complete replacement, including the electrical, mechanical and structural components. Corrosion at the facility has impacted the structural integrity of the wet well and other lift station components. The existing L32 site is not large enough to allow construction of the replacement facilities while maintaining flows. The proposed project will include constructing a new lift station across the Mississippi River in Fridley, odor control facilities on both sides of the river, and other improvements to provide a complete operational facility.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive outcome of stewardship and the Thrive principle of collaboration. Public financial resources will be invested efficiently and effectively to maintain and restore wastewater infrastructure, which protects the region's natural resources.

Funding

Preliminary funds for the project's planning, design, and construction are proposed in the 2021 Capital Program. MCES intends to submit this project to PFA for inclusion in its 2021 Intended Use Plan.

Known Support / Opposition

MCES staff is not aware of opposition to the project.