

Committee Report

Business Item No. 2021-289

Environment Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 10, 2021

Subject: Authorization to Hold a Public Hearing on the Draft Facility Plan for the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant, MCES Project 809800

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes a Public Hearing on January 5, 2022 to gather input on the draft Facility Plan for the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant, MCES Project No. 809800.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Committee Member Zeran inquired if it was possible to revisit the 3% inflation rate as it may not be accurate due to increasing costs for materials, etc. Staff stated the 3% annual inflation rate is standard MCES financial guidelines and confirmed that even with the recent increases in inflation rates (8% over the last year), the average inflation rate over the last decade remains at 3%. Planning level costs also include a 30% contingency to address undefined design details. The project is currently in the concept phase. Staff will continue to monitor the inflation rate during the planning process and keep the Committee Members aware of changes throughout the process.

Committee Member Wulff commented on the constraints of the current property. This is the right time to look at an alternate plan for the plant.

The proposed action was approved and forwarded to the November 10, 2021 Council meeting for approval.

Environment Committee

Meeting date: October 26, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 10, 2021

Subject: Authorization to Hold a Public Hearing on the Draft Facility Plan for the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant, MCES Project 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 authorizes a Public Hearing on January 5, 2022 to gather input on the draft Facility Plan for the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant, MCES Project No. 809800.

Background

This facility plan recommends relocation of the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant service from downtown Hastings to MCES property located at 2445 Ravenna Trail, Hastings, MN by 2026.

The 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan includes planned replacement of the existing Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant to serve the long-term service area which may include land areas of Marshan, Nininger, and Vermillion Townships. The long-term planned capacity is 10 million gallons per day.

The existing plant site presents challenges to major renewal, land use compatibility, and expandability in response to reliable service issues, growth, and changes in regulatory requirements.

Based on a 2020 condition assessment, continued reliable service at the existing plant through 2040 will require an investment of approximately \$26,000,000. Cost does not include facility expansion or building systems upgrades. Relocation of the existing Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant at this time avoids major investment at a site that does not meet the long-term needs of the service area.

Rationale

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.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship and Sustainability by providing more capacity for development and investing in our infrastructure in an efficient manner.

Funding

Preliminary funds for the project's planning, design, and construction are included in the 2021 Capital Program. MCES intends to submit this project to Public Facilities Authority for inclusion in its 2022 Intended Use Plan.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this project.