

## *Inflow and Infiltration Mitigation Efforts*

City of Eagan, MN

For the past several years, the Metropolitan Council has been working with local communities to reduce the amount of clear water flowing into the sanitary sewer system. This flow is known as Inflow and Infiltration, or I/I, and it is cause for concern because it consumes available reserve capacity in the wastewater system.

### What is I/I?

In many communities, a majority of the sewer system is private – the responsibility of private property owners. The City of Eagan instituted an inspection, testing and financial assistance program to stem the I/I problem in that community, and save money.

### Eagan mitigation efforts

- Assessed locations to determine source of excessive flow
- Divided city into 22 districts to measure I/I and address problem systematically
- Addressed public system to reduce flow from those sources
- Created in-home sewer inspection/repair program
- Held community meetings to educate about I/I and provided information about program
- Instituted program splitting costs between the city and property owners

“Once (people understand the problem), they become very supportive and want to be good stewards of our environment.”

*Tom Colbert, public works director,  
City of Eagan*

### Financial impact

- City paid 50% of the costs
- For the remaining 50%, property owners were offered low-cost financing through the city, paid through a special assessment.
- For properties not in compliance, a surcharge was assessed through utility bills.

According to Eagan city officials, property owners understood the program, its benefits, and repairs that have been made have improved the amount of clear water the city is contributing to the system.

### Advice for other communities

- Study your system
- Fix the contributing factors on the public property side
- Engage and communicate with the community to help them understand the problem
- Work on the problem systematically