

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Matt Fulton, City Manager
DATE: February 22, 2016
SUBJECT: Modifications to Inflow/Infiltration Program



BACKGROUND INFORMATION : The City of West St Paul is engaged in a program intended to ensure that clear water does not end up in the sanitary sewer system. This program is being required by the Metropolitan Council that has a surcharge approach toward communities that allow excessive clear water into the sanitary sewer service. In West St Paul's case, the surcharge amount is \$2.7m. The surcharge can be avoided if a similar amount is invested in the public and private sanitary sewer infrastructure to remove the clear water.

While the program was originally commenced in 2008, a more aggressive approach was implemented in 2015. The engineering firm of SEH has been retained to assist the City in this effort.

Based on the experience from the past year relating to this project, there are several modifications that the City Council is being asked to consider at this time

DISCUSSION : The following modifications are being suggested to be implemented:

1. Hire a temporary employee to provide initial house preview to determine if the property is ready for inspection by SEH and assist property owners in understanding the overall steps required by this program to become compliant. The position description for this position is attached and the proposed rate is \$20-\$25/hour. The position would continue until the I/I program is completed. As part of this effort, the City would take more of a leadership role in helping property owners schedule and accomplish the necessary steps in becoming compliant.
2. Amend Chapter 50.08 of the City Code regarding the discharge of prohibited clear water drainage and sump pumps. The proposed changes simply are intended to clarify the responsibilities of homeowners to participate in the I/I program and ensuring that the sanitary sewer service line is available and accessible. The proposed language clarifies penalties for not participating. The Council is being requested to have a first reading of the ordinance at its regular meeting on February 22. The proposed ordinance is attached.
3. In order to avoid street excavation, it is being recommended that any required sanitary sewer service line repairs be limited to no closer than 2 feet from the sanitary sewer main in the street. Any repair work that would necessitate excavation in the street would be noted in the City's records and corrected at the time of street reconstruction. This would shift the cost of these repairs to the City although would also preserve the integrity of the street which is a high community priority. Future costs for sanitary sewer main repairs would increase as a result of this approach and would need to be absorbed in municipal sewer rates.
4. A property would be considered compliant upon the submittal and review of a video and signed verification statement from the licensed plumbing company following all required repairs.

5. FISCAL IMPACT

I/I Inspection Liaison is proposed at a \$20-\$25/hour rate. Hours will depend on need. Annualized, this position, working full-time, would be approximately \$41,600-\$52,000 and funded through the Sanitary Sewer Fund.

Additional city expenses relating to assuming reconstruction repairs to sanitary sewer service line/main repair is not possible to calculate at this time and would be incorporated within the capital budget for the Sanitary Sewer Fund.

Eliminating a final inspection by SEH will save the City \$200/inspection.

		Amount
Fund:	602	
Department:	49450	
Account:	40104	\$20-\$25/hour

STAFF REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION

Staff is requesting the City Council to:

1. Hold the first reading of the proposed ordinance amendments to Chapter 50.08 of the City Code relating to the discharge of prohibited clear water drainage and sump pumps;
2. Authorize the hiring of a temporary I/I Inspection Liaison to assist property owners through this process.
3. Approve several program modifications:
 - a. Disallow any street excavation for the repair of a sanitary sewer service line, except as authorized for unusual circumstances, and acknowledge that any needed repair would be addressed as part of a street reconstruction project at City expense.
 - b. Allow compliance based upon the submittal and review of a video and written verification by plumber that all repairs have been accomplished.