

Lompoc City Council Agenda Item



City Council Meeting Date: October 7, 2014

TO: Patrick Wiemiller, City Administrator

FROM: Tim Smith, Wastewater Superintendent
t_smith@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Re-certification of Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP)

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council Adopt Resolution No. 5953(14) (attached), recertifying the SSMP.

Background:

In 2009, the City of Lompoc was required by the State of California Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ (2006 Order) to implement a system-specific SSMP. The SSMP was prepared, approved by Council on July 21, 2009, and subsequently certified by staff to the Water Board.

The same Order states “the SSMP must be updated every five (5) years, and must include any significant program changes.” Further, “re-certification is required ... when significant updates to the SSMP are made.”

Discussion:

Effective September 9, 2013, Water Board Order No. WQ-2013-0058-EXEC (2013 Order) mandated a new Monitoring and Reporting Program for all SSMPs. The 2013 Order has now been incorporated into the City’s updated SSMP. The earlier Monitoring and Reporting Program defined two categories of reportable sanitary sewer overflows, whereas the current program expands the number of categories to three. The City already reports all sanitary sewer overflows that occur on the City’s system, therefore, in practice, the current Monitoring and Reporting Program merely expands the classification by categories and clarifies reporting requirements for each category. The complete text of the 2013 Order is incorporated in the updated SSMP in Appendix 6-A, beginning on page 56. Other minor revisions and corrections have also been included in the updated SSMP.

As the Water Board considers this update significant, re-certification is required. While a public hearing is not needed, the re-certification process includes Council approval of the updated SSMP at a public meeting, after which, authorized staff will re-certify the

updated SSMP online per Water Board instructions. The Wastewater Superintendent is a recognized Legally Responsible Official with the State of California Water Quality Control Board for such purposes as online re-certification of an SSMP.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the approval of the update to the SSMP. Implementation of the Monitoring and Reporting Program began with the adoption of the SSMP by the City Council on July 21, 2009. At the time of the adoption of the SSMP, the package presented to the City Council included an attachment identified as “2006 Order Fact Sheet” (Fact Sheet).

The Fact Sheet was, effectively, a “Frequently Asked Questions” information sheet with the final question of the Fact Sheet stating: “How much will compliance with these new WDRs [Waste Discharge Requirements] cost?”

While the fact sheet addresses the methodology for the cost analysis, the following provides a guideline of the estimated cost for systems statewide to comply with the 2006 Order. “The increased average annual cost (in order to comply with these WDRs) per person is estimated to be \$28.74 [per year] and \$71.86 per household (or \$5.99 per month per household).” The Fact Sheet also recognizes the wide diversity of communities subject to the WDRs and finishes the section with: “Costs for compliance in small communities may be as high as \$40 per month per household.” It should be noted the costs identified by the 2006 Fact Sheet were derived from five years of data up to 2006 in 2006 dollars; costs in 2014 dollars are likely higher.

The City’s FY 2013-15 Budget includes the costs for compliance with the 2006 Order, resulting in no additional cost for compliance with this update. However, the City’s 2006 Wastewater rate study likely did not include these costs, due to timing of publication of the study and the WDR order.

Conclusion:

Incorporation of the Water Board’s current Monitoring and Reporting Program into the City’s SSMP is required by State Order. This action triggers a need for the Council to approve the updated SSMP, and for authorized staff to complete its required re-certification.

Approval of Resolution No. 5953(14) authorizes the Wastewater Superintendent to re-certify the updated SSMP with the Water Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Smith, Wastewater Superintendent

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Larry Bean, Utilities Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Patrick Wiemiller, City Administrator

Attachment: [Resolution No. 5953\(14\)](#)