



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE UPDATED SEWER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN AND AUTHORIZE THE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL TO SUBMIT TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

CEQA: Determine the Sewer System Management Plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).
(Environmental Programs Manager Douglas Krauss)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution approving the updated Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) (**Attachment 1**); and
2. Authorize the Legally Responsible Official (LRO) to certify and submit the updated SSMP to the California State Water Resources Board (SWRCB)

Executive Summary:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the updated Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ. Adoption of the updated SSMP is required to maintain compliance with the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for publicly owned sanitary sewer systems. The resolution also authorizes the City's Legally Responsible Official (LRO) to certify and submit the updated SSMP to the SWRCB.

Background:

On December 6, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ (**Attachment 2**), which revised the General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Sanitary Sewer Systems. This Order supersedes the previous WDRs established in 2006 and imposes updated requirements for the proper operation, maintenance, and management of publicly owned sanitary sewer systems in California.

The Order mandates that all regulated entities, including the City, develop and maintain a SSMP that outlines the City's policies, procedures, and practices for reducing the risk of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and ensuring compliance with the Clean Water Act. The SSMP must be reviewed and updated at least every five years.

As a regulated public agency, the City is required to:

- Maintain an up-to-date SSMP that complies with the elements specified in the Order;
- Obtain City Council approval of the SSMP by resolution;
- Designate a Legally Responsible Official (LRO) to certify documents and reports submitted to the SWRCB

The City has completed a comprehensive update to its SSMP (**Attachment 3**) to reflect current operations, organizational changes, and the revised requirements in Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ. The updated plan includes enhanced documentation of preventive maintenance, performance monitoring, staff training, emergency response planning, and public outreach. Staff recommends the City Manager be designated the LRO. With Council approval, staff will submit the SSMP to SWRCB before the August 2nd deadline. The SSMP will be audited annually and amended as required.

Analysis:

The proposed action to update the Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). This “common sense” exemption applies when it can be determined with certainty that a project will not have a significant impact on the environment. The SSMP outlines the operation, maintenance, and management of the existing sewer system and does not propose new construction or commit to specific capital improvement projects.

General Plan Consistency:

This report and associated recommendation have been evaluated for their consistency with the City’s General Plan. Relevant Policies are listed below:

Infrastructure Element

Goal 1. Infrastructure systems are functional, safe, and well maintained.

Policies:

- **1.1 Infrastructure systems plan.** Establish and adopt an integrated, holistic systems approach to guide infrastructure development, improvement, maintenance, and resilience.
- **1.3. Right-of-way coordination.** Ensure infrastructure maintenance and repair projects within the public right-of-way are coordinated with utilities and agencies to minimize additional roadway repaving or accelerated deterioration.

Goal 4. The sewer system infrastructure is modernized and resilient.

Policies:

- **4.7 Sewer system operation.** Continue to implement maintenance and operation measures established in the Sewer System Management Plan.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of the SSMP.

Attachments:

1. Draft Resolution
2. SWRCB Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ
3. Sewer System Management Plan

Respectfully Submitted by: Briana Aube, Assistant Engineer

Concur: Andrew Nguyen, Associate Engineer

Concur: Douglas Krauss , Environmental Programs Manager

Legal Review: Todd Leishman, City Attorney

Approved: Steve Napolitano, Interim City Manager