



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 11, 2012

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Annual Wastewater Collection System Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council hear a report from staff on the wastewater collection system maintenance and management activities for Calendar Year 2012.

DISCUSSION:

The City operates 257 miles of wastewater collection system pipelines, the majority of which are six- or eight-inch in diameter and serve to convey wastewater to the City's El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant. The operation of the wastewater collection system is regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board under a Waste Discharge Requirement Permit.

In December 2010, the City retained the consultant Brown and Caldwell to assess system management practices and assist with modifying those practices to reduce the sanitary system spill level. In April of 2011, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper filed a lawsuit against the City in federal district court alleging violations of the Clean Water Act. City staff and Channelkeeper agreed to the terms of a consent decree in March 2012.

As part of this agreement, City staff will present the progress on collection system maintenance and operation activities to Council each year. This is the first of those presentations. Channelkeeper will be afforded 20 minutes to address the Council at the beginning of the item.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Funding for implementation of the consent decree, along with all collection system costs, is provided through the Wastewater Fund rates. The rates were most recently increased in June 2012.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Limiting overflows and accelerating the renewal of the collection system will ensure that wastewater is effectively conveyed to the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment.

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office