



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** April 30, 2013

**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.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The City operates 257 miles of wastewater collection system pipelines, the majority of which are six or eight inches 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 January 2011, the City contracted with the consultant, Brown and Caldwell, to assess collection system management practices and assist with modifying those practices to improve maintenance practices and reduce the sanitary system overflows.

In April 2011, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper filed a lawsuit against the City in Federal District Court alleging violations of the Clean Water Act. The City and Channelkeeper agreed to the terms of a consent decree in May 2012. By the time the consent decree was negotiated, the City had already committed over \$400,000 and very substantial staff resources to the development and implementation of management practices to improve collection system operations. The City was able to utilize the Brown and Caldwell work to satisfy many of the concerns raised in Channelkeeper's lawsuit. Therefore, much of this work was incorporated into the consent decree and is the basis for most of the requirements of the consent decree.

By March 31 of each year, during the term of the consent decree, the City is required to report to Channelkeeper on the previous year's activities and to project the current year's work, particularly as it relates to the rehabilitation, replacement or repair of collection system pipes. These reports are available in the City Clerk's office for review. The presentation to Council will summarize the information provided to Channelkeeper

in the annual reports. Channelkeeper will make a presentation to Council after the staff presentation.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Funding for implementation of the consent decree, along with all wastewater system costs, is provided through the Wastewater Fund rates. In July 2012, the rates were increased by 10% to provide sufficient revenue to fund increased costs of compliance with the consent decree and to meet other wastewater facility needs.

**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