

Advisory Technical Panel – Updating Infiltration and Inflow Control Program

September 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: See attached Sign-In Sheet

I. Reducing Excessive Infiltration/Inflow in Local Sanitary Sewer Systems

Mr. Bill Sheriff, Assistant Director of Engineering, summarized the activities of the subcommittee.

II. ATP Subcommittee

Mr. Al Hollenbeck, RJN Group, delivered a presentation (attached) regarding the minimum requirements of the Compliance Metrics, Short Term Program and Long Term Program within the new I/I program.

Mr. Sean O'Dell asked if there will be funding will be available to address the private sector I/I sources. Mr. Hollenbeck responded that funding will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Kevin Fitzpatrick and Mr. Mark Emory gave examples of prior condition assessment documentation not meeting the proposed minimum standards (i.e. absence of NAASCO Coding, etc.) and asked if it could be accepted. Mr. Hollenbeck responded that the documented prior work would need to be reviewed and professional judgment would be required.

Mr. Craig Brunner and Mr. Hollenbeck discussed that the design storm must be chosen for the compliance metrics. Mr. Dale Schepers suggested that the ICAP design storm be used. Mr. Dave Weakley concurred with Mr. Schepers.

Mr. Ross Dring asked to what extent the private lateral defects should be rehabilitated if they are found while addressing the public system. Mr. Hollenbeck responded that at a minimum the connection should be addressed and suggested that the unit costs to rehabilitate the service lateral are expected to get more cost-effective over time.

Mr. Weakley asked why sump pump disconnections are not part of the Short Term Program and suggested that a successful I/I reduction program would include them. Mr. Hollenbeck and Mr. Dorsey responded that there was significant pushback from public officials and the COGs toward the sump pump disconnections being a requirement of the program. Mr. Hollenbeck stated that the current program allows a local community to pursue sump pump disconnections.

Mr. Schepers and Mr. Fred Vogt expressed their opinions/concerns with the requirement to investigate/rehabilitate the private sector starting the 6th year after the enactment of the new program.

Ms. Catherine O'Connor, Director of Engineering, Mr. Hollenbeck, Mr. Weakley and Mr. Brunner discussed the Condition Assessment requirements and the possibility of portions of the sewer system being excluded from it with documentation.

Mr. Vogt, Mr. Hollenbeck and Mr. Tang discussed that the remaining sewer system not addressed during the Condition Assessment would be addressed as part of the Long Term Program.

Mr. Hollenbeck stated that antecedent moisture condition should be considered if flow monitoring is used.

Ms. O'Connor, Mr. Hollenbeck and Mr. Jim Goumas discussed how flow monitoring can be used as a tool within the program and the possibility of the MWRD providing flow monitoring assistance to the communities.

Mr. John Wiemhoff stated his concern with private sector I/I sources not being addressed within the first five (5) years of the program. Ms. O'Connor stated that the program allows the local authorities to address their private sector I/I sources.

Mr. Dring, Mr. Vogt and Mr. Schepers suggested that the MWRD provide educational and technical seminars/workshops on why communities should reduce I/I, and I/I flow reduction techniques. Ms. O'Connor stated that the MWRD could start with education of homeowners and explain why I/I reduction is beneficial to them and how it will reduce flooding of homes. Mr. Weakley stated that in his experience, education is the key to a successful program. He also stated that flow monitoring could be used as a diagnostic tool, not a qualifier.

Mr. Weakley stressed the importance of private sector inspections. He also stated that there may be a perception of political pushback from elected officials toward any sewer rate increase. He cited an example of his city funding capital improvement projects for rehabilitation work through a water bill surcharge and indicated that several officials have since been reelected. Mr. Chris Staron stated that prior to a rate increase; the tax-payers must be informed and educated.

Mr. O'Dell and Mr. Weakley discussed that I/I rehabilitation work may increase surface water; therefore, additional drainage systems may be needed in some areas to capture/convey the flow not entering the sanitary sewer system.

III. Next Meeting

The next ATP meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2013 at the MWRD LASMA Visitor Center at 1:00 pm.