

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 9, 2018

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Agenda Item #47 – Dallas Water Utilities Intention to Rejoin the TCEQ Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiative Program**

The following item will be presented to the City Council on the November 14, 2018 agenda.

**Agenda Item #47** – Authorize an agreement with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to participate in the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiative program to address sanitary sewer overflows and encourage publicly-owned treatment works to develop and implement corrective action plans to protect public health and the environment

The Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiative (SSOI) is a State program created to reduce sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) due to aging systems and intended to reduce the number of overflows reported each year. Further, the program is intended to encourage municipalities to develop and implement corrective action plans before SSOs impact human health or the environment.

The Department was a member of the SSOI program for 10 years beginning 2007 through 2017 (approved under Council Resolution 07-0323). Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) successfully completed the program by meeting and or exceeding all parameters for the entire period. DWU reduced its sanitary sewer overflows by approximately 42% with 3.1 overflows per 100 miles of pipe in FY17/18 as compared to 5.4 overflows per 100 miles of pipe in FY 06/07.

Some of the key benefits of participation in the program include, exempting DWU from being subject to formal enforcement action by the TCEQ for most continuing SSOs, as long as they are addressed by the SSOI. Additionally, participation allows the municipality to direct resources toward corrective actions, as opposed to having to pay penalties associated with an enforcement order in addition to the corrective actions. Also, participation ensures that SSOs addressed by the plan will not affect the system's compliance history. In summary, the program will detail:

- Productivity goals related to sanitary sewer system maintenance
- Descriptions of causes of the SSOs
- Interim measures to reduce the effects of continuing SSOs
- Timeline for action items and milestones
- Description of the means for evaluation the effectiveness of improvements

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Overflow Initiative Program

Given the previous success of participating in the program and the resulting benefits to the wastewater collection and treatment system, Dallas Water Utilities recommends rejoining the SSOI program for another ten (10) year period. Being a member of the program requires annual reporting but does not incur any additional costs to the Department.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.



Majed A. Al-Ghafry, P.E.  
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney (I)  
Carol A. Smith, City Auditor (I)  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Directors and Assistant Directors