

TO: Andrew P. Powers, City Manager

FROM: Clifford G. Finley, Public Works Director

DATE: February 22, 2022

SUBJECT: **Wastewater Interceptor Capital Improvement Program Unit W – Condition Assessment (CI 5445)**

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolution adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the Wastewater Interceptor Capital Improvement Program Unit W Condition Assessment (CI 5445).

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No Additional Funding Requested. \$1,674,000 is available in the Adopted FY 2021-23 Wastewater Capital Budget.

BACKGROUND:

The Unit W Wastewater Interceptor is a gravity collection pipeline that originates near the Oaks Mall and transports a large volume of wastewater following an access road and traversing the Arroyo Conejo Creek to the Hill Canyon Treatment Plant (HCTP) (Attachment #1). The pipeline was installed in the 1960s and improvements have been made over the decades. In the lower portion of the interceptor, the original 1960s Unit W pipeline consists of a 30-inch diameter pressurized pipeline with two major wastewater access structures (Structure W-1 & Structure W/F). These two structures enable the wastewater interceptors to be controlled and accessed by staff. Since the 1960s, that pipeline has been lined in sections using cured in place pipe (CIPP), and a second 39-inch diameter pipeline was installed from the City's W/F wastewater collection access structure to the South Headworks at the HCTP. In addition, in 1998 a parallel 42-inch diameter pipeline and several pressurized reinforced concrete structures were installed to control and manage the wastewater flow, and to provide redundancy to this critical interceptor.

Due to its location within the bottom of a confined canyon, the Unit W Interceptor is exposed to periodic high velocity storm flows which may cause substantial erosion and/or deposition of debris and rock. As these facilities age, it is important to assess the condition of the pipeline, structures and valves, to ensure long term reliability of this key wastewater infrastructure. Inspection and maintenance is critical to prevent any failures and potential wastewater discharge. The age of some of the affected pipelines are over 40 years old. Due to the high flows in the pipeline and the pipeline vertical alignment, there is a 4,800-foot long inverted siphon (pressurized) section of the lower Unit W interceptor that cannot be internally inspected or rehabilitated without substantial effort.

The proposed project is the condition assessment of the pipelines and structures, and includes:

- Inspection of valves and replacement as required to facilitate bypassing wastewater flow during the internal condition assessment;
- Temporary installation of wastewater bypass pipes to empty the pipelines prior to insertion of the closed-circuit television (CCTV) equipment;
- Installation of pipe access fittings on the existing Unit W pipelines to provide access for the CCTV equipment, temporary improvement of four existing maintenance road creek crossings (South Fork Arroyo Conejo) to facilitate access by vehicles and equipment, internal cleaning of the pipelines as needed; and
- Inspection of the internal pipe condition using CCTV equipment.

The proposed project represents phase 1 in the rehabilitation of the Unit W Interceptor, which is limited to assessing the internal condition of the Unit W Interceptor and replacing broken isolation valves. Once the internal condition assessment is complete, the actual rehabilitation required can be accurately determined and any improvements identified, engineered and designed. That full design effort will be phase 2 of the project, which entails separate independent environmental review and permitting.

On June 19, 2018, the City retained Padre Associates, Inc., a professional environmental engineering firm to prepare the required project regulatory permit application packages for the Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. These

regulatory permits are required due to the environmentally sensitive area of the project and the required construction work within the creek channel crossings and banks. The permit application work continues and is anticipated to be completed later this year. One of the required steps to complete the regulatory permits is the completion of the project California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document. On January 26, 2021, the City retained AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM), a professional engineering firm, to prepare a condition assessment of the Unit W facility and prepare construction-ready plans and specifications for the rehabilitation project.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Environmental Review

As required under the provisions set forth in Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines, an initial study was prepared for the City for the Wastewater Interceptor Capital Improvement Project Unit W Condition Assessment (CI 5445). The Initial Study was prepared by Padre and Associates and evaluates the potential effects of this project on the environment. Although the Initial Study determined that the project could have a potentially significant impact on the environment for certain receptors, the project can be designed to reduce the impacts and feasible mitigation measures have been identified that would either avoid or reduce impact to a level of insignificance or less than significant with mitigation. The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was prepared and published on December 23, 2021, to allow for the required 30-day public comment period. No comments were received during the public comment period. Based on these findings, an MND and Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Plan has been prepared for the proposed Condition Assessment project in compliance with the provisions set forth in Section 15070 of the CEQA Guidelines (Attachment #2).

Staff recommends City Council to adopt a resolution adopting an MND and Mitigation Monitoring Plan for Wastewater Interceptor Capital Improvement Program Unit W Condition Assessment (CI 5445) (Attachment #3).

PROJECT SCHEDULE – PHASE 1 CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Design	Completed June 2021
Environmental Permitting	February 2022 to Fall 2022
Bid Process & Award	Winter 2023
Construction/Condition Assessment	Spring 2023 to Summer 2024

Community Outreach: This project is in the lower portion of the

Wildwood area. Coordination with other City agencies and the community will be performed prior to construction. Initial coordination with Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA) has occurred on the project during the environmental review, and will continue through construction regarding advertising the project schedule during the construction phase so hikers and trail users will be aware of the intermittent trail closures.

This project meets City Council's Top Ten Priorities #9 to, "Adopt and implement two-year Operating and Capital Improvement budgets that are aligned with best practices on fiscal sustainability and financial resiliency. Make strategic investments in existing critical public works infrastructure including pavement management, sidewalks, water resources, and streetscape."

CIP PROJECT PRIORITY (as outlined in FY 2021-22 & FY 2022-23 CIP Program Budget)

Priority Two – Necessary, but not essential, and there could be consequences if deferred.

COUNCIL GOAL COMPLIANCE:

Meets the following City Council goal(s):

- F. Provide and enhance essential infrastructure to ensure that the goals and policies of the Thousand Oaks General Plan are carried out and the City retains its role and reputation as a leader in protecting the environment and preserving limited natural resources.

PREPARED BY: Nader Heydari, Deputy Public Works Director

Attachments:

- Attachment #1 – Vicinity and Location Maps
- Attachment #2 – Final Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Attachment #3 – Resolution