



STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

Board of Directors Long Range Planning Workshop Date: 3/8/2025

TO: Honorable Board of Directors
FROM: Lani Good, District Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 4.E. USEPA Consent Decree Planning

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss available strategies to reduce stormwater inflow and infiltration (I/I) in the wastewater collection system, along with options for setting triggers and funding improvements. Direct District staff to take action in the coming year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I/I reduction strategies are specific to whether the I/I enters the wastewater collection system through District-owned infrastructure or privately-owned infrastructure. For District-owned infrastructure, the most effective strategies for I/I reduction include:

- Removal of inflow sources;
- Comprehensive, basin-wide rehab/replacement of mains and manholes targeted in sewer basins with high I/I; and
- Targeted spot repairs with comprehensive full-basin chemical grouting.

For privately-owned infrastructure, effective strategies for I/I reduction include

- Improve compliance with the Regional PSL Program,
- Increase enforcement of SSD Ordinance Code,
- Strengthen enforcement provisions, and/or
- Take ownership of lower or entire laterals and use I/I reduction strategies listed above for District-owned infrastructure.

Funding and financing options for I/I reduction projects include:

- Use District operating funds and reserves,
- Procure external bonds or loans, and/or
- Seek grant funding.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The objectives of the USEPA Consent Decree (Case Nos. CV 09-00186 and CV 09-05684, N.D. Cal.) are 1) the elimination of the three EBMUD Wet Weather Treatment Facilities (WWFs) under 1952 storm conditions, and 2) the elimination of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). Reducing I/I in the wastewater collection system contributes to meeting both of those objectives and is, therefore, in the District's best interest to manage effectively.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do nothing.
2. Discuss available I/I reduction strategies, triggers, and funding options.
3. Discuss available I/I reduction strategies, triggers, and funding options and direct District staff to take actions.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are wide-ranging fiscal impacts to the District of the varying strategies that will be discussed. Furthermore, there are financial penalties and risks of additional Work required if Consent Decree requirements are not met.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Reducing I/I in the wastewater collection system reduces discharges of untreated and partially treated wastewater to the San Francisco Bay, creeks, and other areas of the urban environment; and therefore, reduces the District's impact on the environment.