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Fwd: Sewer Matters Great and Small Require Action

1 message

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To: Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 27, 2022 at 10:18 AM

From: **Gregg Dieguez** <gadieguez@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 7:06 PM

Subject: Sewer Matters Great and Small Require Action

To: Kishen Prathivadi <kishen@samcleanswater.org>, Matthew R Clark <mrc.gcsd@gmail.com>, Barbara Dye <bdye@granada.ca.gov>, Chuck Duffy <cduffy@dudek.com>, Clemens Heldmaier MWSD <mwsd@coastside.net>, Kathryn Slater-Carter <kathryn.s.c@gmail.com>, Ric Lohman <ricster@sbcglobal.net>, Debbie Ruddock <DRuddock@hmbcity.com>, Deborah Penrose <DPenrose@hmbcity.com>, Matthew Chidester <MChidester@hmbcity.com>

Esteemed SAM Board Members and staff,

I come before you tonight with a plea for action on matters great and small, ranging from 5 million gals to 6". The concerns I raise should be familiar to the Board, because they happened at SAM. The MCC's recent consideration of the Cypress Point Development with 71 additional units, plus at least another 21 at Big Wave, caused me to reflect on the fact that our sewer system was already overwhelmed during the storm of Dec. 13-14, 2021, when the plant experienced periods of daily inflows in excess of the 15mgd rate, and caused the local overflow which was cleverly remedied by use of a portable pump and SAM's proactive staff. Of the 15+mgd flows, a little over 3 mgd came from the IPS, which leaves 12mgd to be explained. As you have heard previously, John Doughty of HMB commissioned a modelling study which stated that HMB could not have produced more than 7mgd, which leaves us with the mysterious 5 million of I&I and untreated sewage yet to be identified, or corrected.

Last October, another storm brought the recently installed wet weather storage (WWS) at the Portola Pump Station to within 6" of capacity. Congratulations on having just installed 200Kgal of WWS last year, which prevented another spill, however, it appears the larger WWS alternative should have been installed.

Clearly, there is no problem with SAM's capacity during dry weather. It is the Peak Wet Weather events from the Climate Crisis which have stressed our system. Yet to avoid spills, it is those peak wet weather events we must address, or our neighborhoods could look like Linda Mar in Pacifica did last October.

I submit that when you are 6" from overflowing, or in excess of the theoretical capacity of the plant during peak wet weather, you cannot keep adding more people and more housing without taking action on the sewer infrastructure. I can think of 4 actions to request of SAM, and welcome more ideas:

1. Build more WWS on the IPS, so that more than 6" of safety margin exists.
2. Build WWS south of the plant, near wherever the Mysterious 5 million gallons came from.
3. Stop allowing new sewer connections until action 4 is proven effective.
4. Have each agency identify and fix its infiltration and inflow problems.

And to launch a determination of the best solutions, I request SAM and its member agencies immediately study the I&I issues and report back, especially the Mysterious 5 million gallons.

I realize this request will entail costs, and that your ratepayers might feel those costs an unfair burden triggered by growth they did not want, nor benefit from. One option to offset those costs is to markedly increase connection fees - so that each new joiner pays a Pro Rata Share of the asset foundation which it is joining based on Current Replacement Costs of those assets - a practice that is not yet done in our area. When I last estimated that Pro Rata connection fee in 2019, it would have been about \$125,000 for a combined water and sewer connection at MWSD. A similar updated number can be justified upon detailed analysis at each member agency.

In conclusion, I have not seen any action on these capacity matters at SAM, yet our County and State governments seem intent on forcing more population onto our strained infrastructure. Maybe we can get the State to pay for the

costs, but we have to start by identifying and pricing the causes of the I & I.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Gregg A. Dieguez

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