



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** August 19, 2025

**TO:** Dean Albro, City Manager

**FROM:** Dong Hyun Chon, Ph.D., P.E. Wastewater Manager  
d\_chon@ci.lompoc.ca.us

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Resolution No. 6770(25) Approving the Revision and Update of the Sewer System Management Plan as Prescribed by the State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ

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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6770(25) (Attachment 1) approving the Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) (Exhibit A to Attachment 1) and directing staff to complete the re-certification process.

### **Background:**

The City's Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) was first developed in 2009, per requirements in the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ (Attachment 2). The SSMP was prepared, approved by the City Council on July 21, 2009, and subsequently certified by staff to the Water Board. The SSMP describes the City's ability to safely and effectively manage the delivery of wastewater/sewage collected from collection system users to where it enters a treatment plant. Regional Water Quality Control Boards are responsible for enforcing the 2022 Order as outlined below and can impose either informal or formal enforcement in response to sewage spills (Attachment 2).

The City's Wastewater Collection Division within the Utilities Department began preparation of its initial SSMP in August 2007. The SSMP covered the nearly 111 miles of the City's sanitary sewer system's collection pipes and the four pump stations it operated at that time. In addition to the City's system, two satellite agencies, the Vandenberg Village Community Service District and the Vandenberg Space Force Base, also convey wastewater/sewage to the City of Lompoc Regional Wastewater Reclamation Plant. Those agencies are referenced in the SSMP to satisfy requirements of the Water Board. Both are responsible for developing their own SSMPs, as well.

The Water Board regulations have changed several times since the SSMP was first required to be developed back in 2009; thus, the SSMP has been updated and re-certified accordingly over the years. The latest regulation, Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ, was

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Revision and Update of Sewer System Management Plan

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adopted by the Water Board on December 2, 2022, and became effective on June 5, 2023.

The 2022 Order required that Element 6 of the City's SSMP, the Sanitary Sewer Spill Emergency Plan, be updated by June 5, 2023 (previously completed), with the remaining elements requiring updates by August 2, 2025. The 2022 Order also requires that the revised SSMP be certified by City Council. Subsequent updates are required at a minimum of every six years.

Re-certification consists of approval by the City Council, followed by the City authorized representative (i.e., the Wastewater Manager) performing the certification process by completing an online database questionnaire and submitting the updated SSMP to the Water Board. Once certified, the SSMP will be made available on the City's website.

### **Discussion:**

The main goals for updating, monitoring, and complying with SSMP requirements are:

- (a) To maintain relevant information that can be used to establish and prioritize appropriate SSMP activities;
- (b) To monitor the implementation and, when appropriate, measure the effectiveness of each element of the SSMP;
- (c) To assess the success of the preventative maintenance program;
- (d) To update the program elements, as appropriate, based upon monitoring or performance evaluations; and
- (e) To identify and address Sewer System Overflow (SSO) trends, including frequencies, locations and volumes.

The eleven mandatory elements prescribed in the 2022 Order are:

1. Goals and Introduction
2. Organization
3. Legal Authority
4. Operation and Maintenance Program
5. Design and Performance Provisions
6. Spill Emergency Response Plan
7. Sewer Pipe Blockage Control Program
8. System Evaluation, Capacity Assurance, and Capital Improvements
9. Monitoring, Measurement, and Program Modifications
10. Internal Audits
11. Communication Programs

To satisfy SSMP requirements in the 2022 Order, older material in the City's SSMP has been updated and additional material has been incorporated to meet the regulations and to reflect current City procedures. This latest update focused on required updates to Element 4 Operation and Maintenance procedures, Element 7 Sewer Pipe Blockage Control Program, and Element 8 System Evaluation, Capacity Assurance, and Capital Improvements. Other minor updates such as consolidating the Goals and Introduction

section, updating staff contact information and the Utilities Department organizational chart, as well as the list of acronyms and definitions have also been conducted.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Minimal fiscal impact on the Wastewater Fund is expected by adopting the attached resolution, which revises and updates the SSMP. Future SSMPs as required at six year intervals and prepared by either staff or consultants are expected to cost approximately \$20,000. Internal performance audits, required every two years, will be conducted by staff or consultants at a cost of approximately \$6,000. These SSMP- related costs will be paid for from Wastewater Fund operating budget and there will be no fiscal impact to the general fund. Failing to maintain a current SSMP however, could result in additional costs if monetary enforcement measures are imposed by the Water Board.

Negligible to no financial impact should occur for residents and businesses city-wide.

**Conclusion:**

The SSMP conforms to the requirements of the Water Board and provides the City Council, regulators, staff, and the public with information about the construction, maintenance, and safe operation of the collection system portion of the City's sewer system. The SSMP, if approved by the City Council, will bring the City into compliance with the 2022 Order. Once approved and re-certified, the SSMP will be made available on the City's website.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dong Hyun Chon, Ph.D., P.E. Wastewater Manager

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:**

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Michael Luther, Utility Director

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

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Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachments: 1) Resolution No. 6770(25)  
2) State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ