

Department of Sanitary Sewers

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www.tampagov.net/dept_Sanitary_Sewers/

Key Public Service Areas

The Department's mission is to provide outstanding Wastewater and Stormwater services to our customers while protecting public health and the environment.

Critical Issues and Areas of Concern

- Sanitary Sewers Rate Schedule
- Optimization Program
- Stormwater Utility Fee
- NPDES Permit Requirements
- Asset Management
- Reclaimed Water Projects (STAR & NTRRW)
- Flood Control
- Stormwater Quality Initiative and System Relocation

Scope of Department Operations

The Sanitary Sewers Department has 469 employees with \$86.5 million annual budget. It collects, treats, and disposes more than 50 million gallons of wastewater per day from over 105,000 customers in Tampa and its immediate surroundings. The department provides financial, design engineering, information systems, contract monitoring, planning, customer service, and management support. It operates and maintains the City's 96 million gallon advanced wastewater treatment plant and 198 pumping stations. In addition, this department is responsible for planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of Tampa's stormwater system. This system includes 365 miles of stormwater mains, 180 miles of ditches, and 90 retention ponds.

Current Initiatives

- Implementing the Optimization Program
- Coordinating the Stormwater Utility Fee
- Building the Reclaimed Water System

Status Report

Sanitary Sewers Rate Schedule. The Department rates have not increased for over 6 years. A rate increase is not expected to be needed until FY2004-2005. Capacity Fees and Sewer Improvement Fees need to be reviewed within the next year to determine if they are still representative of costs. [[CR-67](#) & [CR-88](#)]

Optimization Program. The Department has implemented an extensive optimization program in all divisions whereby it is changing work practices to be competitive with private contract operators and develop multi-skilled employees. To date, the Department has reduced costs by over \$4.2 million and reduced staffing by 46 positions. This equates to an annual savings of approximately \$2 million.

Stormwater Utility Fee. Tampa's stormwater, flooding, water quality and major system replacement needs have been underfunded for several years. A dedicated, recurring funding source needs to be put in place to address this problem. It is proposed that the City implement a Stormwater Utility that is identical to that currently used by Hillsborough County. The utility is expected to generate approximately \$4 million per year for stormwater infrastructure improvements. The utility is scheduled to be included on the Hillsborough County Property Tax bills in 2003 and seems to have broad support.

NPDES Permit Requirements. The City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System NPDES Permit has been scheduled for review. The Department will be negotiating the requirements of the permit during 2003.

Asset Management. The Department is potentially facing major changes on how its assets are managed. CMOM is Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance associated with the

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sanitary sewer system. These proposed federal regulations could result in large expenditures to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows. GASB 34 is a new federal regulation that covers audit and accounting methods associated with asset management. CMMS is a computerized maintenance management system that is a tool that can aid in appropriately maintaining the sewer infrastructure.

Reclaimed Water Projects (STAR & NTRRW). The Department of Sanitary Sewers has two major reclaimed water initiatives underway to help the region save potable water. The South Tampa Area Reclaimed (STAR) Project will provide reclaimed water to south Tampa residents and businesses for irrigation purposes. Phase 1 is under construction and Phase 2 is in the design phase. The North Tampa Regional Reclaimed Water (NTRRW) Project is being planned to provide reclaimed water for turf irrigation, industrial/commercial use and environmental benefits in New Tampa, Pasco County, Hillsborough County and other cost effective service areas. The USEPA has contributed \$12.5 million to STAR Phase 1; SWFWMD is planning to contribute \$11 million to STAR Phase 2 and \$22.5 million to the NTRRW. Both projects will consume a significant amount of Department resources.

Flood Control. The Flood Control Initiative is designed to provide a long-term program to address major areas of flooding. The fiscal resource that was identified was the Community Investment Tax (CIT). However, the CIT was not allocated to the Sanitary Sewers Department for the Flood Control Program in FY02. Therefore, there remains an unfunded need of \$90,000,000 for the program.

Stormwater Quality Initiative and System Relocation. The Stormwater Quality Initiative and System Relocation is designed to address additional reduction in stormwater pollution and relocate stormwater pipelines under structures. CIT program revenue was not allocated for Stormwater CIPs for the FY02-06 Program and the projected deficit is \$45,000,000 over the next 20 years.

Department of Sanitary Sewers Organizational Chart

The Department of Sanitary Sewers has five primary divisions:

Engineering conducts contract administration, inspection, design engineering, surveys, drafting and planning of facilities for the Department.

Administration and Fiscal is responsible for the department's personnel, payroll, accounting and customer service.

Wastewater Collection is charged with the construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of wastewater pipelines.

Stormwater Operations is responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of Tampa's stormwater system. This system includes 365 miles of stormwater mains, 180 miles of ditches, and 90 retention ponds.

Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant operates and maintains the City's 96 million gallon advanced wastewater treatment plant and 198 pumping stations.

