

MEMORANDUM

August 6, 2003

TO: The Honorable Linda Saul Sena, Chair and Members of the City Council

FROM: R. Michael Salmon, P.E., Director, Stormwater Department

SUBJECT: Stormwater Summary

For some time, the City has been working on the concept of a Stormwater Utility. In June, the administration selected the consulting firm Government Services Group, Inc. (GSG), and the law firm of Nabors Giblin Nickerson, to identify criteria upon which to base a new stormwater fee for property owners in the City of Tampa. The results of the GSG study are contained in the GSG Phase I report with the ordinance establishing the utility, and the GSG Phase II report with this Initial Proposed Rate Resolution.

The basis of this stormwater fee is both the value of benefit from stormwater management and the partial cost of handling runoff generation from impervious (paved or hard) surfaces. Impervious surface is area under roof and pavement. It is not living area or square footage of home. The GSG study identified four categories (Tiers) of single-family parcels which have similarities in impervious area and building footprint. The proposed average monthly fee ranges from \$.61 for a small single-family parcel, to \$2.82 for a very large single family parcel (see attached). The fee for more than three-quarters of all homes will be one dollar or less per month, and will be collected once per year. Parcels are assigned to a Tier based on their building footprint.

Commercial fees will be based on an extension of the stormwater fee calculation from the residential numbers and their actual impervious area. It is important to note that an equal amount of impervious area will pay the same, regardless of land use. For those parcels which provide a reduction of discharge through onsite treatment and attenuation, or those who do not discharge to the City Stormwater System, a Mitigation Credit may be provided upon application by the property owner.

The fee will be used to help fund maintenance, operations and planning, all of which are of general citywide benefit. Subject to authorization and approval by Council, we may, in the future, identify larger capital improvement projects to be funded by localized special assessments.

On August 21, 2003, we will mail notices and brochures to all affected property owners informing them of the purpose for the assessment, and what their proposed bill will be. A phone bank will be opened to provide callers with answers to questions about the documents mailed and the fees proposed. Council is scheduled to hold a final public hearing on the stormwater issue on September 11, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Tampa Convention Center. At that hearing, the final Assessment Roll can be adopted.

Attachments: Example Fee Chart
Final Stormwater Funding Program Phase II Report
Example Draft Brochure
Example Draft Notice