

10-1947

DEC 17 2010

MOTION

National environmental policy and laws for the management of wastewater flows and discharges into the nation's waterbodies were codified in the landmark Clean Water Act of 1972. Passage of such a sweeping and historic legislation was a recognition of the value of our nation's water and other natural resources and the need to protect them from the deleterious impact of untreated, or poorly treated wastewater and polluted stormwater flows.

Following the passage of the Clean Water Act, the City created the Sewer Construction and Maintenance Fund in 1972 to provide initial funding for what was to become one of the largest and most important environmental programs in our City's recent history. Major milestone-type accomplishments such as upgrading the treatment process at the City's Hyperion Treatment Plant to Full Secondary by 1998; ceasing ocean disposal of sludge (biosolids) by 1987; the construction of some of the largest tunnel interceptor/outfall sewers to address dry and wet weather capacity issues that were causing wastewater overflows (sewer spills) onto our neighborhood streets and eventually our waterbodies like the LA River, Ballona Creek, Dominguez Channel, San Pedro Bay, and Santa Monica Bay, have made a life-changing difference in the quality of the water in our beaches, creeks and rivers.


Largely because of the financial implications brought about by the rapid and massive implementation of the Clean Water Act, we the City at times have resisted improvements required by the regulatory agencies, like US EPA, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and have chosen instead to litigate directly with such agencies, or with third party environmental steward organizations like Heal the Bay, Santa Monica BayKeeper, etc. More often than not, the outcome of the litigation has not been favorable to the City. We now recognize that having a common understanding and good relationship with the regulating and environmental advocacy community leads to better outcomes and win-win scenarios.

Environmental infrastructure investments in the City's Clean Water Program are far from being completed. The sewer collection system and its 6,700 miles of sewer pipes of all sizes and 49 pump stations is need of further replacement. The City's four water reclamation plants have significant capital needs as well to ensure that they meet the effluent quality standards, which continue to be refined, amended and further restricted. The Bureau of Sanitation is tasked with ensuring that, at a minimum, the City remains in full compliance with the Clean Water Act and associated state and regional laws and permit requirements, and continues to maintain the investment in our infrastructure.

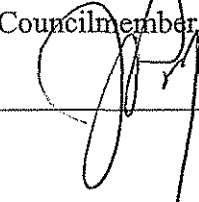
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation present a comprehensive report to the City Council on the state of the City's Clean Water (Wastewater) Program, which shall include a financial plan.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation work closely with the CAO and the CLA in the preparation of the report.

PRESENTED BY:

  
BERNARD PARKS  
Councilmember, 8<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

  
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