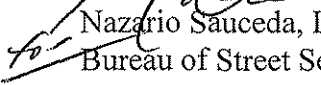


CITY OF LOS ANGELES

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: October 10, 2013

TO: Public Works Committee
of the Los Angeles City Council
Attn: Office of the City Clerk
Room 395 City Hall

FROM: 
Nazario Saucedo, Director
Bureau of Street Services
Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: Water Discharge to Lemarsh Street from Bureau of Street Services Maintenance Facility: CF 13-0808

This report is presented in response to the City Council Motion (CF 13-0808) introduced on June 25, 2013 by Councilmember Mitchell Englander, instructing the Bureau of Street Services to report back on the nature, amounts, times/days, and causes of water discharges from the Bureau of Street Services' (BSS) Granada Hills Maintenance Yard onto Lemarsh Street, along with actions needed to remediate the pooling of water at the Reseda Boulevard and Lemarsh Street intersection.

BSS first became aware of the Motion when it was agendaized for the September 4, 2013 Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee meeting. The Committee granted BSS a 30-day continuance to conduct an investigation and to provide a written report.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and File this Report.

BACKGROUND

The BSS Granada Hills Maintenance Yard is located at 10210 Etiwanda Avenue. Services provided to neighboring communities from this facility include motor street sweeping; pothole and other street and sidewalk asphalt repairs; and repair of guardrails, catch basins, curb ramps, and minor bridge and tunnel. There is a permitted transfer site on the premises, which is a staging area for mixed debris collected from street sweeping operations and for construction debris, weeds, tree stumps, asphalt, and concrete generated from BSS construction operations. A trash compactor is located near the transfer site for the purpose of minimizing the number of truck trips to landfill.

The maintenance facility has a specific area designated for the wash down of vehicles and equipment. This area includes a containment perimeter and drains connected to a working clarifier that processes the effluent. This operation is separated from a longitudinal concrete gutter that is designed to convey

rainfall runoff from the maintenance yard onto the street gutter fronting the facility by way of curb drains.

BSS has written Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) in place for each of its maintenance facilities. These include general housekeeping, cleaning, and maintenance practices; requirements to check and keep drain inlets clear, and procedures to strictly separate wash down effluent from drains leading to curb outlets. The SWPPPs are clearly posted at each facility and Supervisors periodically review the Plans with staff. BSS Technical Services Section staff also conducts spot checks at the yards to monitor compliance with the City's Stormwater Permit requirements.

Under dry conditions, no water or other discharge should be leaving the maintenance facility.

DISCUSSION

According to the Motion, residents have observed water discharge from the facility during the night and early morning hours. It should be noted that the working hours at this facility, with few exceptions, are from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Investigation

The BSS overnight Emergency Truck inspected the location at varying times over a 30-day period and found no evidence of water coming from the maintenance yard or in the street gutter flow line. Specific inspection days and times were:

- Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at 1:25 am and 5:05 am
- September 5 at 1:34 am, 5:20 am, and 7:00 pm
- September 8 at 1:55 am
- September 9 at 1:43 am
- September 10 at 5:00 am
- September 11 at 4:50 am
- October 3 at 8:45 pm
- October 4 at 3:40 am
- October 5 at 8:45 am
- October 7 at 1:05 am and 8:35 pm
- October 8 at 3:40 am

During the month of September, the Bureau also inspected for water runoff coming from the facility twice each day. A broken landscape irrigation sprinkler was discovered, which is located at the front of the facility on Etiwanda Avenue. The automated sprinkler system is set to engage at 1:00 am and again at 3:00 am, for a five to seven minute duration on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The irrigation system was shut off when the problem was discovered and has since been repaired. This may have been the mysterious source of overnight water discharge cited in the Motion.

Sprinkler over-watering was also found to be a source of water in the street gutter at locations on Kevin Court, Tuba Street, Canby Avenue, Rathburn Avenue and Lemarsh Street. BSS will continue to observe this situation and, if necessary, will make contact with the residents to bring the issue to their attention.

Standing Water Mitigation

Council District 12 has requested BSS to provide repair cost estimates for numerous off-grade gutters, i.e. standing water problems, including the intersection of Lemarsh Street and Reseda Boulevard. A cost estimate has been provided for CD-12's consideration that will mitigate the problem.

BSS Actions

The Bureau will continue to provide training of new staff and periodic refresher communication with all staff regarding the described policies and procedures in order to minimize incidents of water and effluent leaving the Granada Hills Maintenance Yard. BSS staff will monitor the landscape irrigation at the facility more frequently and will make repairs as needed in a timely manner. Finally, BSS will monitor the streets adjacent to the facility for excessive runoff that may be contributing to the pooling of water in the street.

If you have any questions or if additional information is needed, please contact the BSS Street Maintenance Division Manager, Chi Ming Gong, at (213) 847-2999 or Assistant Director Ron Olive at (213) 847-3333.