

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

The Wastewater Treatment System collects, conveys and processes wastewater from an estimated 2.0 million people, generated in a service area which includes the City, several municipalities and unincorporated communities in the Houston metropolitan area. The system consists of approximately 6,200 miles of sanitary sewer lines, over 425,000 service connections, 358 lift stations, 41(5 major and 36 satellite) wastewater treatment plants, and three major sludge treatment facilities. The average daily wastewater flow through the system for the Fiscal Year 2001 was 220 million gallons per day (mgd). As reflected by state permits, the effective treatment capacity of the system is 562 mgd. The permitted capacity of plants that are a part of the wastewater system treatment ranges from 0.20 mgd for the smallest plant to over 200 mgd for the 69th Street Wastewater Plant.

The City finances capital improvements and expansion through several funding mechanisms, which include prior and junior lien bonds, renewal and replacement funds and impact fees.

Prior to granting a building permit for construction, the City evaluates the wastewater system's ability to transport and treat the estimated volumes of additional wastewater. Impact fees are collected, at least in part, to recover the cost of facilities previously constructed. These fees can be applied to the construction of new facilities providing additional capacity.

The Wastewater Treatment Facilities Capital Improvement Program provides for the continued upgrading of the wastewater collection and treatment system. Additional funds are provided to comply with the regulations issued by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Major capital projects to be undertaken in FY2003 include the following:

- Rehabilitation and replacement of neighborhood sewer systems in various service areas
- Rehabilitation of portions of the collection system to remove excessive infiltration and known overflows within the sewage system
- Rehabilitation or replacement of various wastewater lift stations
- Improvements to the 69th Street Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Continued installation of sewer service to areas not previously provided such service
- Rehabilitation of Neighborhood sewers to improve service and eliminate sewage backups