

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, approximately 400 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 2004 was approximately 278 million gallons per day (MGD). As reflected by state permits, the effective treatment capacity of the system is 564 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, but the largest source is bond funds.

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 Improvements 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 Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Major capital projects to be undertaken in FY2005 include the following:

- Compliance with anticipated TCEQ Citywide Agreed Order.
- Rehabilitation or replacement of various wastewater treatment plants.
- Rehabilitation or replacement of various wastewater lift stations.
- Improvements to the Almeda Sims Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Continued rehabilitation of neighborhood sewers to improve service, remove excessive infiltration, prevent sanitary sewer overflows, and eliminate sewage backups (\$26 million proposed in FY2005).