WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

The Wastewater Treatment System (System) collects, conveys and processes wastewater from an estimated 2.0 million people, generated in a service area, which includes the City of Houston, 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 services 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 FY2006 is estimated at 267 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 is a part of the wastewater system treatment capacity that ranges from 0.20 MGD for the smallest plant to over 200 MGD for the 69th Street Wastewater plant.

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 Utility Treatment Facilities 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).

The six-year program totals approximate $900 million and is financed through two funding sources with the largest single source being revenue bonds.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Highlights of the FY2008-2013 CIP include:

- Compliance with anticipated TCEQ Citywide Agreed Order
- Continued rehabilitation of neighborhood sewers to improve service, remove excessive infiltration, prevent sanitary sewer overflows, and eliminate sewage backups ($28.8 million in FY2007)
- Rehabilitation or replacement of various wastewater treatment plants
- Rehabilitation or replacements of various wastewater lift stations
- Improvements to the Almeda Sims Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Continued plant consolidation to reduce operation and maintenance cost
- Increased participation in sewer line construction cost with Developers to promote inner city development