COMBINED UTILITY SYSTEM

Description and Mission

The Combined Utility System of the Public Works & Engineering Department is composed of three separate funds: the Water and Sewer System Operating Fund 8300, the Combined Utility System Operating Fund 8301 and the Combined Utility System General Purpose Fund 8305. The latter fund is described under the appropriate section.

The department's mission is to plan, design and maintain Houston's critical public infrastructure systems to provide excellent drinking water and wastewater collection and treatment, as well as, manage and monitor the department's financial, material, and utility billing and collection resources and do so responsively, efficiently, and in an environmentally responsible fashion.

Department Short Term Goals:

- Further reduce the City's use of groundwater to achieve compliance with mandates of Harris Galveston Coastal Subsidence District.
- Maintain compliance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Complete installation of fixed network system and implementation of automated meter reading functionality to enhance consumption data collection, improve services to water customers through leak identification, usage patterns and billing accuracy.
- Complete expansion of City's WiMax network system.
- Implement an Integrated Disaster Recovery/Data Storage System for consolidated mainframe and open systems.

Department Long Term Goals:

- Continue to train and develop a group of professional water and wastewater managers and operators to ensure continued reliable and efficient operation of the utility in the coming decades.
- Continue neighborhood sanitary sewer rehabilitation program. This will provide a reliable system to the citizens and reduce repair costs in the future.
- Continue fire hydrant rehabilitation program. This will provide reliable water access to City firefighters in response to future fire emergency calls that protect citizen lives and property.
- Implement and support all department wide wireless WiMax initiatives.
- Replace Legacy Water Customer Information System (WCIS) Billing System and Customer Information System (CIS) Hansen Billing System.

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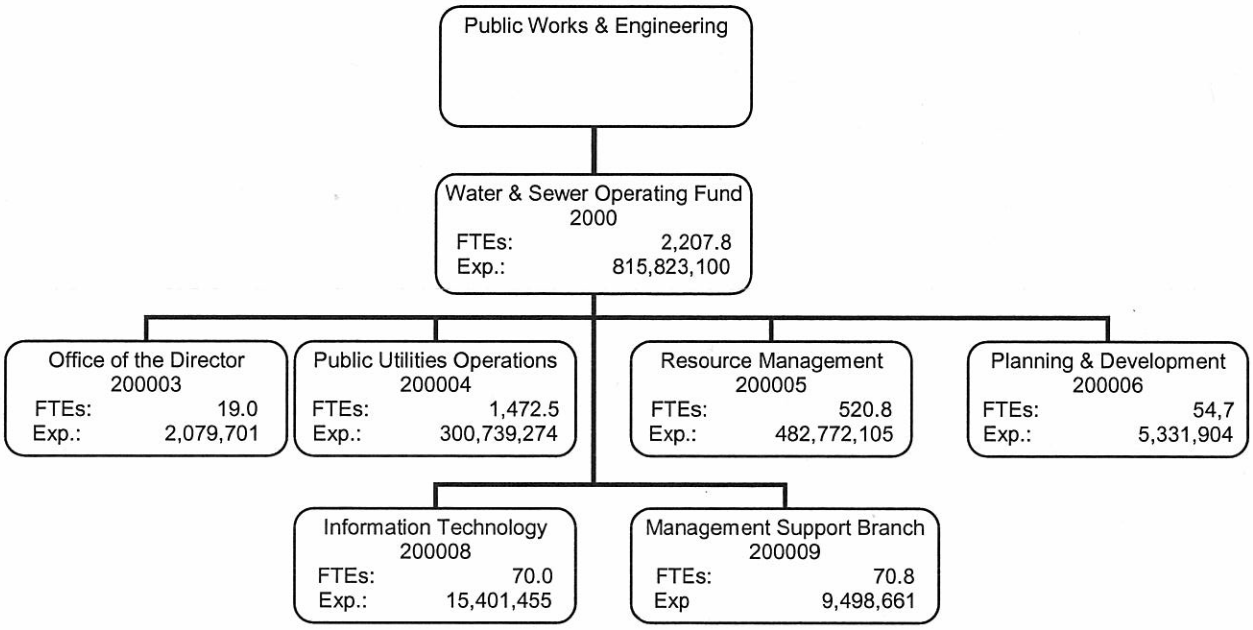
Department Organization