



Public Works
City Engineering

DATE: April 26, 2007

TO: Lorne C. Kramer, City Manager

FROM: ~~SOM~~ Ronald L. Mitchell, Director of Public Works
Kenneth C. Sampley, Stormwater Enterprise Manager

SUBJECT: STORMWATER ENTERPRISE UPDATE

SUMMARY:

This memo provides an update on the status of the Stormwater Enterprise (SWENT). Staff is proceeding with the implementation of the SWENT in accordance with the schedules and approaches previously discussed with City Council. Key program elements of the SWENT include:

- Business, Customer Billing and Customer Service;
- Capital Improvement Projects;
- Maintenance and Repair Projects;
- Drainage Basin Planning Studies and Fee Program;
- Federally Mandated Municipal Stormwater Discharge Permit (MSDP); and
- Public Communications and Flood Warning/Education.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

- February 13, 2007 – Formal Council Meeting. City Council approved (on second reading) Ordinance No. 07-30 amending Ordinance No. 06-246 (2007 Appropriation Ordinance) and Ordinance No. 06-245 (2007 Tax Levy Ordinance) for the SWENT Fund in the amount of \$14,600,000 to provide for the collection of revenue and expenditure of funds.
- November 14, 2006 – Formal Council Meeting. City Council approved Resolution No. 193-06 which established the fee structure for the SWENT.
- November 13, 2006 – Informal Council Meeting. Staff presented the recommended fee structure for the SWENT and provided information on the process used to refine the structure for City Council consideration and action.
- October 10, 2006 – Formal Council Meeting. Staff requested that the presentation of the recommended fee structure and other fee structure options be postponed to the November 13, 2006 Informal City Council meeting.
- August 22, 2006 – Formal Council Meeting. The original fee structure and two new fee structure options were reviewed and discussed. City Council requested that the options be analyzed, that additional public input be obtained, and that the options be presented for review and consideration at the October 10, 2006 Formal City Council Meeting.

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- August 21, 2006 – Informal Council Meeting. Staff presented a recommended fee structure based on impervious surface area and an associated credit system. A new fee structure based on density was outlined and submitted for further review and consideration.
- April 25, 2006 – Formal Council Meeting. City Council approved Ordinance No. 06-80 that amended Ordinance No. 05-195 (2006 Appropriation Ordinance) and Ordinance No. 05-194 (2006 Tax Levy Ordinance) for the SWENT Fund in the amount of \$1,530,000.
- April 25, 2006 – Formal Council Meeting. City Council also approved Resolution No. 58-06 authorizing an interfund loan between the General Fund and the Stormwater Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$1,530,000 for the 2006 SWENT Operations.
- April 10, 2006 – Informal Council Meeting. Staff presented an update on the implementation of the SWENT and addressed issues City Council raised at the March 27, 2006 Informal Council Meeting. Information was presented on the public communication efforts, the SWENT Business Plan Summary, the 5-Year CIP program, maintenance staffing issues, and the credit structure. City Council directed that the Resolution to set the fee and credit structure for the SWENT be rescheduled for its consideration and action at the August 22, 2006 Formal Council Meeting and that the effective start date for the SWENT be changed from October 1, 2006 to January 1, 2007.
- December 13, 2005 – Formal Council Meeting. City Council approved on second reading Ordinance No. 05-193 (Supplemental Budget Appropriation) and Ordinance No. 05-192 (Creation of SWENT).
- November 22, 2005 – Formal Council Meeting. City Council approved Ordinance No. 05-193 that amended Ordinance No. 04-286 (2005 Appropriation Ordinance) and Ordinance No. 04-285 (2005 Tax Levy Ordinance) for the SWENT Fund in the total amount of \$600,000 for the development of the proposed SWENT impervious area and customer billing database and for enterprise implementation technical support.
- November 22, 2005 – Formal Council Meeting. City Council approved Resolution No. 219-05 authorizing an interfund loan between the General Fund and the SWENT Fund in the amount of \$360,000 and a loan from Colorado Springs Utilities to the SWENT Fund in the amount of \$240,000 for the development of the proposed SWENT impervious area and customer billing database and for enterprise implementation technical support.
- November 22, 2005 – Formal Council Meeting. City Council approved Ordinance No. 05-192 that established the SWENT (Article 8 of Chapter 14 of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs 2001, as amended).

BACKGROUND:

On December 13, 2005, City Council approved Ordinance No. 05-192 which created the Stormwater Enterprise (SWENT). On November 14, 2006, City Council approved Resolution No. 193-06 which established the fee structure for the SWENT. Ordinance No. 07-30 established the 2007 Stormwater Enterprise Budget and was approved by City Council on February 13, 2007.

Staff informed City Council of the short time frame provided subsequent to approval of the fee structure within which to develop and implement the customer billing system. In spite of this constraint, staff met the goal of issuing the initial invoices for the first quarter of 2007 in mid-February 2007. Staff is proceeding with the implementation of the SWENT in a careful and prudent manner and in conjunction with the phased staffing plan presented previously. It should be noted that the additional staffing is needed in order to implement the programs that are included in the SWENT.