



REPORT to the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL  
From the CITY MANAGER

DATE: July 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving a Revenue and a Capital Improvement Program Account for Sewer Lateral and Backwater Valve Reimbursement and Construction with a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$150,000

ISSUING DEPT: Public Works

SUMMARY:

Issue:

Should the City of La Mesa adopt a resolution approving a revenue and a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) account for sewer lateral and backwater valve (BWV) reimbursement and construction with a not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000?

Recommendation:

Adopt the attached resolution approving a revenue and a CIP account for sewer lateral and BWV reimbursement and construction with a not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no net impact to the City's budget. This is a reimbursement program. No general fund money will be used for this project.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Continue to improve high quality municipal services

BACKGROUND:

The City of La Mesa is an older city with some infrastructure that is 50-100 years old. This infrastructure, more specifically the sewer system, requires maintenance, repairs and at times replacement. While the City continually maintains its sewer system, the sewer laterals that are connected to the City's sewer system are maintained less frequently and are the responsibility of the homeowner.

These sewer laterals can be problematic to the City and property owners as they begin to age. Typically the first sign of an issue is a sewer backup. Usually the City is called to investigate the cause of the backup and in most cases; the staff identifies the cause of the backup to be a blockage in the sewer lateral. This blockage can be related to cracking or offsets in the lateral, roots, grease, organics or other issues. Most of the time a plumber can resolve the issue by cleaning the lateral; however, there are occasions a repair/replacement of the sewer lateral is required. As part of the response to the sewer backup, the City is required cleanup any spills and to report the incident to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Sewer backups can be very costly and cause major inconvenience to the property owner. In some cases, the owner/resident will need to move out for weeks until the sewer lateral and damages to the house are repaired or replaced.

Many property owners have expressed a desire to replace their sewer lateral and install a backwater valve (BWV) if required with the City's sewer replacement projects and reimburse the City for the cost of the replacement and installation of the BWV based on the City's contract's unit bid pricing. A backwater valve is a device that is installed on the sewer lateral of the property that prevents sewage from entering the home in case of a backup in the City's sewer main. The BWV is recommended for homes that are less than two feet of vertical elevation of the nearest upstream sewer manhole.

#### DISCUSSION:

Staff is recommending the City provide homeowners the option of replacing their sewer lateral and/or installing a BWV when the City has a sewer main replacement project. The offer would be available to homeowners who are within the project's construction limits. On April 14, 2020, City Council approved a resolution to award a contract for the Inflow and Infiltration Project Phase 5 (sewer main replacement). Since the award several residents have expressed interest in having their lateral replaced.

As part of the project, staff would work with interested homeowners to identify the costs and if they decided to continue the homeowner would then deposit the funds into a revenue account. The City would then issue a change order to the contractor to proceed with the work and pay the contractor from the CIP account. All the permits and fees would be included which would significantly reduce the process and time a homeowner would need to undertake if they did this on their own.

#### CONCLUSION:

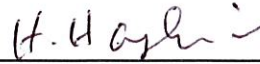
Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution approving a revenue and a CIP account for sewer lateral and BWV reimbursement and construction with a not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000.

Reviewed by:

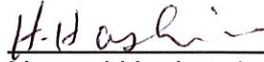


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Greg Humora  
City Manager

Respectfully Submitted:



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Leon Firsh  
Director of Public Works/City Engineer



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Hamed Hashemian  
Engineering Project Manager

Attachments: A - Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-\_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA APPROVING A REVENUE AND A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ACCOUNT FOR SEWER LATERAL AND BACKWATER VALVE REIMBURSEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION WITH A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$150,000

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WHEREAS, the City of La Mesa continues to improve high quality municipal services;

WHEREAS, the City of La Mesa is an older City with private and public sewer infrastructure needing repairs, rehabilitation or replacement;

WHEREAS, the City has an ongoing program to rehabilitate and replaced the City's sewer infrastructure;

WHEREAS, there is a desire by some property owners to include rehabilitation and replacement of the private sewer laterals and install a backwater valve if applicable, with the City's construction project;

WHEREAS, the property owners would reimburse the City for the cost of the private improvements and such funds are deposited into a revenue account;

WHEREAS, the City will pay the contractor for such work out of a dedicated capital improvement program account; and

WHEREAS, such service would also benefit the City by reducing the sewer backup service calls, potential sanitary sewer overflows and any potential cleanup of the overflow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, that the City Council approves setting up a revenue and a capital improvement program accounts for the purposes of allowing the property owners reimburse the City for private sewer lateral and backwater valve improvements fronting the City projects with a not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, held the 14th day of July 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATE OF THE CITY CLERK

I, MEGAN WIEGELMAN, CMC, City Clerk of the City of La Mesa, California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of Resolution No.\_\_\_\_\_, duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City 14th day of July, 2020, and by the vote therein recited.

MEGAN WIEGELMAN, CMC, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)