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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 23, 2021

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

**Re: Erie County Sewer District No. 3
Emergency Repairs – Southtowns AWTF Influent Pumping System**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning regarding funding for emergency repairs of the influent pumping system for the Southtowns Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF).

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Joseph Fiegl, P.E. in the Division of Sewerage Management. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP:bp
Enclosure

cc: Joseph Fiegl, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Sewerage Management

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Erie County Sewer District No. 3
Emergency Repairs – Southtowns AWTF Influent Pumping System
Date: April 23, 2021

SUMMARY

The Department of Environment and Planning is requesting authorization to utilize Erie County Sewer District (ECSD) No. 3 Bond Account C.17301 to allocate expenses associated with emergency repairs of the influent pumping system for the Southtowns Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no fiscal implications to the County's general fund. Expenses associated with the emergency repairs will be allocated in ECSD No. 3 Bond Account C.17301.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Emergency repairs are required for the influent pumping system for the Southtowns AWTF. There are concerns the 2021 ECSD No. 3 operational account will be adversely impacted due to these unanticipated costs. By allocating the expenses related to this work to Bond Account C.17301, these budgetary concerns will be mitigated and alternative funding mechanisms (i.e. use of capital reserves or long-term financing) may be employed in the future.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Southtowns AWTF is equipped with three (3) influent Archimedes screw pumps to convey sewage to the secondary treatment process. Two (2) pumps are required, with the third providing redundancy. In March 2021, maintenance staff noted a gear box on one (1) of the screw pumps was leaking oil and required repairs. During the course of evaluating the entire influent pumping system, it was discovered flights had separated from the main body (scroll) of another screw pump. While initial maintenance work and temporary repairs has been completed to provide two (2) functional pumps, there are concerns regarding the influent pumping system reliability due to the compromised condition of the functional pumps and the lack of redundancy.

Managing influent flows to the Southtowns AWTF is critical to minimizing flooding and providing treatment of sewage – thereby protecting the health and safety of the community. As a result of the aforementioned reliability concerns, the Division of Sewerage Management requested an emergency declaration to expedite these repairs, which was granted by the County Executive pursuant to Section 3.07 of the County of Erie Administrative Code. Staff at the Southtowns AWTF have been working with several vendors and contractors to provide backup pumping provisions to mitigate the immediate risks and to implement the necessary fixes.

The full cost for all items associated with the emergency repairs are not known at this time, but may exceed \$500,000. A repair of that magnitude was not contemplated in the 2021 budget and hence could adversely impact ECSD No. 3's operations.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Sufficient funds may not be available for certain ECSD No. 3 operational activities in 2021, requiring separate Legislative action to address.

STEPS TO FOLLOW APPROVAL

The Division of Sewerage Management will facilitate actions necessary to allocate costs associated with the emergency repairs of the Southtowns AWTF influent pumping system to Bond Account C.17301.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE REVIEW

The proposed legislation has been reviewed by the Comptroller's Office and is related to a Capital Account for which there are sufficient funds available for the action proposed.

Signed John Golecki Date 4/15/2021
Gregory-Gaer
Deputy Comptroller John Golecki
Director of Accounting Services & Cash Management

Erie County Sewer District No. 3
Emergency Repairs – Southtowns AWTF Influent Pumping System
Bond Account C.17301

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Erie County Sewer District No. 3
Emergency Repairs – Southtowns AWTF Influent Pumping System

WHEREAS, emergency repairs associated with the influent pumping system for the Southtowns Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF) are required; and

WHEREAS, the expenses related to these unanticipated emergency repairs may adversely impact the 2021 operational budget for Erie County Sewer District (ECSD) No. 3; and

WHEREAS, sufficient authorization is available in ECSD No. 3 Bond Account C.17301 to fund these emergency repairs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby approved for costs, not to exceed \$600,000, to be allocated in ECSD No. 3 Bond Account C.17301 for expenses related to the emergency repairs of the influent pumping system for the Southtowns AWTF; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Division of Sewerage Management be authorized to identify the specific expenses related to the aforementioned emergency repairs and notify the Division of Purchase, the Comptroller's Office, and/or the Division of Budget and Management of the need to allocate those expenses to Bond Account C.17301; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Comptroller is authorized and directed to allocate up to \$600,000 in ECSD No. 3 Capital Bond Account C.17301 for expenses identified by the Division of Sewerage Management for the emergency repairs at the Southtowns AWTF; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send one certified copy of this Resolution to the County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, the Director of the Division of Budget and Management, the Director of Purchase, and Joseph Fiegl, P.E. Department of Environment and Planning, Division of Sewerage Management.