

BB

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION

On Saturday, July 20, 2024, there was a sewer overflow incident that occurred near 2700 South Cresta Place. The Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) were notified of the matter and proper BOS staff responded to contain the spillage, assess the damage, and affect the necessary repairs.

The City crew determined that an 8-inch main line sewer serving the area had backed up due to a blockage, which was caused by a Department of Water and Power (DWP) water main break. The water main break caused the sewer to collapse from the excessive water inflow. However, before full containment, it was determined that over 15,000 gallons of untreated sewage spilled, and even though the containment team was able to capture some and return it to the sewer system, the remaining sewage entered the Ballona Creek through a catch basin. The BOS notified the County of Los Angeles' Department of Public Health and the State Water Resources Control Board about the spill.

Media reports regarding the incident warned beachgoers to avoid the water and wet sand within a one-mile radius of the Ballona Creek because the spill reached the Ballona Creek and made its way to the Pacific Ocean between Playa Del Rey and Venice Beach. This incident is very concerning given it is just one of many spills that have recently occurred due to failing infrastructure. Further, its impact on the health and safety of local residents and summertime beachgoers, as well as the long-term environmental harm to the Ballona Creek is of deep worry.

It is very important that BOS and DWP report on the incident, its cause, their response and the potential regulatory impacts the City may face. The BOS should be prepared to explain how their recent request for sewer rate-adjustments addresses community concerns and ensures transparency. It will also help the City coordinate more efficient responses to future environmental hazards with our regional jurisdictional partners.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council direct the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), and request the Department of Water and Power (DWP), to report on the cause of the sewer line rupture and subsequent sewage spill at 2700 South Cresta Place which occurred on July 20, 2024. The report should also address how the BOS and the DWP coordinate and share information to prevent and mitigate spills, in addition to infrastructure upgrades that are needed.

PRESENTED BY: Traci Park  
TRACI PARK  
Councilwoman, 11<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: Katy Yandrosky

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