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April 17, 2025

The Honorable City Council
c/o Petty F. Santos
Office of the City Clerk
Room 360, City Hall

COUNCIL FILE NO. 25-0006-S23 - Special Motion 23 / Infrastructure Status / Affected City – Owned Facilities – 2025 Windstorm and Wildfire Recovery

SUMMARY

This report outlines impacts to facilities owned and operated by LA Sanitation and Environment's (LASAN) Clean Water Conveyance Division (CWCD) as a result of the 2025 windstorm and wildfires. While the final condition assessment is ongoing, it has been confirmed that there were damages to sewer and storm drain pump stations, sewer and storm drain pipes, and ancillary equipment. In addition, there were two resulting sanitary sewer overflows as a result of damaged infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council RECEIVE AND FILE this report

BACKGROUND

As a result of the January windstorm and wildfires, the Los Angeles City Council adopted Motion 25-0006-S23 on January 14, 2025, requesting the Department of Public Works and its Bureaus to evaluate and report on the status of infrastructure and facilities serving the communities impacted by the Palisades Fire and other wildfires across the City.


DISCUSSION

Palisades Fire Area

The CWCD reported to the fire zones to assess damage and implement mitigation measures for the seven sewer pump stations and seven storm drain pump stations that were impacted by the fires. Emergency generators were provided, pumping trucks were

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deployed, and staff were on-site to manually operate facilities that lost power and/or were damaged in the fires. Repair requests have also been issued and emergency contractors have been engaged and repair work is scheduled to start soon. In the meantime, the sewer and stormwater infrastructure will continue to be operated manually until repairs are complete and can be returned to automatic operation.

Staff has also been assessing the sewer and storm drain infrastructure by physical and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) inspection. The wastewater flows within the sewer pipes has been less than normal due to many damaged homes throughout the fire areas. To date, we have completed 46% or 69 miles of sewer line inspections. We have also engaged contractors to make repairs to the damaged pipeline system within the burn area totaling approximately 250 feet of sewer pipe and 570 feet of stormwater pipe at the time of this report.

During these past few months, CWCD staff have continued to clean and maintain several debris basins within the Palisades burn area. CWCD personnel have cleaned 14 debris basins, removing approximately 3300 cubic yards of debris at the time of this report. Emergency contractors have also been hired to supplement this effort. This is an ongoing process due to the condition of the hillsides within the burn areas and the limited availability of debris removal storage and disposal options.

One additional significant impact was to debris control structures within the hillside slopes that were burned and damaged in the fire. LA County performed repairs on the structures and removed some of the debris to restore capacity for these structures to retain future debris flows.

Other Fire Areas

Minimal identified LASAN assets were affected within this fire zone. No damage found at the time of this report.

FISCAL IMPACT

As of the date of the completion of this report and based upon FEMA's first Recovery Scoping Meeting on April 17, 2025, the total estimated cost of the impacts to LASAN's sewer and stormwater infrastructure is approximately \$16.7 million. LASAN will continue to work with City Administration Office to provide cost estimates in an effort to seek reimbursement at the State and Federal level. More accurate cost will be provided after the second Recovery Scoping Meeting which will take place on April 23, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Kwasi Berko at kwasi.berko@lacity.org or Michael Scaduto at michael.scaduto@lacity.org.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Romero
Director and General Manager
LA Sanitation and Environment