

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
FROM: GABE OSBURN, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
ENGINEERING SERVICES
SUBJECT: PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE WATER,
RECYCLED WATER AND SEWER STANDARDS AND
SPECIFICATIONS

AGENDA ACTION: NONE

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for the Board's information and no action will be taken.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff will present an informational session on the Water, Recycled Water and Sewer Standards and Specifications ("Standards"), which set forth the design policies and construction methods associated with additions and modifications to the public potable water, recycled water and sewer systems. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed updates to the Standards.

BACKGROUND

The Standards set forth the design guidelines and construction procedures for all additions and modifications to the potable water, recycled water and sewer systems performed under both private development and capital improvement projects. The Standards are developed to maintain consistency within the specific utilities and provide a level of predictability to the construction and engineering communities that are tasked with modifying or extending the systems.

The most recent update to the Standards occurred in 2009 under City Council Resolution Number 27404. The revision included a change in potable water service sizes to ensure that appropriate volumes are being delivered to residential fire sprinkler systems and the allowance to utilize High Density Polyethylene pipe for new water services.

The 2009 update also implemented revisions to the sewer standards, with the most

significant components being the requirement to install a two-way sewer cleanout and a backwater valve to help facilitate cleaning and maintenance operations.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

Representatives from the Planning and Economic Development Department regularly meet with the Engineering Contractor's Association (ECA) and the North Coast Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) to discuss challenges associated with meeting the existing standards. ECA and ACEC have requested changes to the Standards that focus on clarifying the specific requirements and, where appropriate, allow for additional tolerances for ease of construction.

The Water Department and the Planning and Economic Development Department have recognized the need to update the Standards due to changes in materials and products, operation and maintenance requirements, regulatory requirements and design policies.

The proposed revisions to the Standards were developed through a collaborative approach which involved input and participation from staff members in the Planning and Economic Development, Fire and Water Departments, as well as members from ECA and ACEC.

Much of the proposed revisions focus on providing corrections to the existing language to reflect current material descriptions, department names, or industry terminology. Changes of this nature do not influence the specific requirements or the ultimate design of the improvement. A smaller percentage of the changes improve the current design and will result in a superior final product. All changes within this category have been reviewed by ECA and ACEC to uncover potential impacts on private development projects. All comments submitted by the two agencies as part of the final draft review were successfully addressed and no significant cost impacts were brought to the forefront.

The Water Department and the Planning and Economic Development Department have both identified the need to develop a program that will allow for a more routine and timelier processing of Standards updates in the future. Standards will be reviewed on an annual basis and any needed changes will be aligned with industry specific code change cycles that typically adopt revisions on the first day of the calendar year. Aligning future updates with typical code change cycles will provide a level of predictability to the development community.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Study Session is for information only and no action is being taken. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact from the Study Session.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- PowerPoint Presentation

CONTACT

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