

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

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06/23/09
MVB

Date: June 23, 2009

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: James R. Williams, Director of Public Works

Subject: **Introduce Sanitary Sewer Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Ordinance**

Recommendation:

Introduce **Ordinance No. 926**, City of Lancaster Sanitary Sewer Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Ordinance, designate the Utility Services Manager as the FOG Control Program Manager and approve the attached FOG Control Program Implementation Plan.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact is unknown but it is anticipated that the fees collected will offset the cost of any services provided.

Background:

In May 2006, the State Water Resources Control Board approved Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR's) for owners and operators of sanitary sewer systems. The WDR's required both the owners and operators submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) and annual fee to the state no later than November 2, 2006, indicating their willingness to comply with the WDR's. Because the City of Lancaster owns and, as of July 1, 2008, operates and maintains its sanitary sewer system, the City submitted its NOI and required fee in October 2006, to comply with the WDR's. The WDR's required the city to prepare and implement a Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP) which includes an assessment of the entire sewer system for both hydraulic capacity and serviceability.

There are approximately 260 commercial FOG sources (food service establishments-FSEs) served by the City's sanitary sewer collection system. There are likely other FOG sources (e.g. commercial kitchens, caterers, institutional kitchens) that are also discharging FOG to the City's sewer system. The City preventively cleans approximately 21 miles of sewer lines that have historically been problem areas at frequencies ranging from monthly to semi-annually in order to prevent blockages and sewer system overflows (SSOs) due to the deposition of FOG and other debris. The City adds or removes sewer lines to its preventive maintenance program following blockages or SSO events and in response to observations of grease or other debris during CCTV inspections or during proactive cleaning of the sewers.

On April 14, 2009, the City Council approved the SSMP as required by the State of California to comply with the WDR's. The SSMP addresses the fats, oils and grease issues in the City and recommends implementation actions. A FOG ordinance was recommended in the SSMP to address FOG issues and assist in implementing the goals of the SSMP.

The City identified sewers having significant amounts of grease deposition (over 10 percent reduction in the pipe cross section area) during the 2008 CCTV inspection program of 125 miles of the sewer system. Though the FOG issue is not a major problem, it is certainly a significant contributor to the cause of SSOs. The City has experienced seven SSOs since July 1, 2008, of which five were grease related.

The FOG Ordinance provides a proactive approach to controlling FOG related blockages of the sewer system. The proposed FOG Ordinance establishes a FOG Control Program to oversee and control the discharge of FOG into the City sanitary sewer system and requires that FSEs apply for and obtain a FOG Wastewater Discharge Permit that will allow the FSEs to discharge to the City sanitary sewer system under controlled conditions. The purpose of the program is to reduce the quantity of FOG entering the sewer system, which in turn will reduce the number and severity of FOG related SSOs. The Ordinance requires grease interceptors or other acceptable devices or methods such as kitchen Best Management Practices be used to remove or reduce FOG from entering the sewers and establishes fees to assist with implementation and compliance.

The proposed ordinance provides that for situations when it is impossible or impracticable to install a grease interceptor, a variance or conditional waiver may be issued and an additional annual FOG Surcharge Fee be paid by the FSE to the City for the extra cleaning services that will need to be provided by the City.

A FSE that does not currently have a grease interceptor will have three years to install one or provide an alternate method of grease reduction that is equally as effective as a grease interceptor, unless the FSE has been identified as having contributed to a SSO, in which case the FSE will need to install the grease interceptor or other equally effective device or method of reducing FOG upon 180 working days of notification.

There is also a provision in the ordinance to reduce or waive the FOG Surcharge Fee for FSE's without a grease interceptor that have been discharging little or no FOG to the sewer system due to implementing proper Best Management Practices. There are penalties for non-compliance included in the ordinance.

It is also recommended that the Utility Services Manager be designated as the FOG Control Program Manager.

Realizing that the proposed FOG Control Program will take time to implement and may pose a hardship on the FSE's, it is recommended that the attached FOG Control Program Implementation Plan be approved.

SD:ddd

Attachments:

Ordinance No. 926

FOG Control Program Implementation Plan