



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Vitaly B. Troyan, P.E.

SUBJECT: Emergency Sewer Cleaning

DATE: May 1, 2013

City Administrator

Date

Approval **/s/ Deanna J. Santana**

5/1/13

INFORMATION

The purpose of this informational memorandum is to inform you that the City Administrator has declared a local public health emergency in response to a critical sanitary sewer overflow affecting Lake Merritt. This declaration will allow staff to hire a specialized sewer cleaning contractor in a timely manner, waiving the formal contracting process. This work is necessary to prevent additional overflows. Sanitary sewer overflows violate the Clean Water Act and may subject the City to significant penalties.

Statement of Facts:

On April 10, 2013, a sanitary sewer overflow occurred around Lake Merritt on Lakeside Drive. Staff responded and was able to capture a significant amount of wastewater before it reached Lake Merritt. However, some raw sewage was spilled to Lake Merritt. Follow up investigation has confirmed that a nearby sewer system consist of about 1,200 feet of 5' x 5' sewer and an additional 2,000 feet of surrounding smaller pipes were constricted with heavy debris and grease and have to be cleaned immediately to prevent further spills. Staff is currently monitoring the situation 24/7 and are on stand-by to respond to any spills that may occur.

Lake Merritt and its water quality are closely watched and monitored by the regional and State regulators. Oakland has done a significant amount of work in the last two decades to improve water quality in Lake Merritt. Avoiding spills in general and especially to Lake Merritt is a high priority for Oakland.

An emergency cleaning is urgently needed to eliminate risks of additional spills. Once the cleaning operations are started, the monitoring and stand-by staff will be released and returned to their normal maintenance duties.

With the declaration of a local public health emergency, staff will be able to negotiate directly with Andes Construction, an Oakland based local contractor, supplemented by a contractor specializing in cleaning large sewers, to perform the cleaning work in a timely manner and avoid

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potential spills. The estimated cost of the cleaning work is \$300,000 and funds are available for this work.

The City Attorney has confirmed that this situation is an emergency and that approving this emergency work is within the power of the City Administrator in accordance with Section 2.04.020 of the City of Oakland Charter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

VITALY B. TROYAN, P.E.

Director, Public Works Agency

For questions please contact Gus Amirzehni, Principal Civil Engineer, at (510) 238-6601.