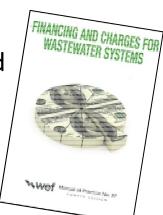
## WATER ADVISORY GROUP

WASTEWATER RATE STUDY OVERVIEW DECEMBER 6, 2018



## **PURPOSE OF RATE STUDY**

- Provides Sufficient Revenue to Operate and Maintain City's Wastewater Infrastructure
  - Capital Improvement Projects
  - RWCF Plant Modifications Project
- Develop Equitable And Cost-Based Rates
- Meets Standard for Proposition 218 for Any Proposed Rate
- Reflect Prudent Financial Planning Criteria
  - Maintain Target Debt Service Coverage Ratio
  - Rate Funding Capital Projects
  - Meet Target Reserve Balances
- Develop the study using generally accepted methodologies tailored to the City's system and customer characteristics





#### WHAT THE RATES CURRENTLY SUPPORT

- CUSTOMERS
  - 112,260 Residential
  - 2,069 Commercial & Institutional
  - 31 Industrial
- COLLECTIONS
  - 1454 Miles of Gravity Pipe
  - 30 Miles Pressurized Pipe
  - 27 Pump Stations
- TREATMENT
  - 55 Million Gallon/Day (MGD) Permitted Wastewater Treatment Plant
  - Currently Treating An Average Of 29 MGD Of Wastewater
  - Meets Stringent Water Quality Requirements
  - Provides Source Of Water For Delta Water Treatment Plant (DWTP)
- CAPITAL REPAIRS
  - On-Going List of Repair and Maintenance Projects
  - Annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Repairs
- RATE FUNDED CAPITAL PROJECTS



## APPROACH TO ESTABLISHING COST-BASED RATES

#### Revenue Requirement

Compares the revenue of the utility to the expenses to evaluate the level of overall rates



#### **Cost of Service**

Equitably allocates the revenue requirement between the various customer classes of service



#### **Rate Design**

Design rates for each class of service to meet the revenue needs of the wastewater utility, along with any other rate design goals and objectives



# OVERVIEW OF THE REVENUE REQUIREMENT

Compares utility revenues to expenses

 Determines the level of revenue (rate) adjustment necessary

Uses prudent financial planning criteria

- Maintaining sufficient ending reserve balances
- Attaining target debt service coverage (DSC) ratio

Reviews a specific time period

• Typically a five to ten year period

Utility is analyzed on a "stand-alone basis"

- No transfer of funds from other City funds
- Rates need to support operations and capital

Utilizes the "cash basis" methodology

Generally accepted method for municipal utilities



### **OVERVIEW OF THE COST OF SERVICE**

#### What is cost of service?

 Analysis to equitably allocate the revenue requirement to the customer classes of service

#### Why cost of service

- Generally accepted as "fair and equitable"
- Avoids subsidies
- Revenues reflect costs
- Meets the proportionality requirements of Proposition 218

#### **Objectives of Cost of Service**

- Determine if subsidies exist
- Develop average unit costs



## **RATE DESIGN**

Reflect the findings of the revenue requirement and cost of service analyses

Meet the rate design goals and objectives of the City Produce sufficient revenues to meet the target revenues of the utility, and each class of service

Are cost-based and equitable



## **2010 RATE STUDY**

- Purpose of Study
  - Fund Operations And Maintenance Activities
  - Fund Construction of Capital Improvement and Energy Management Plan
  - Correct Legal Bond Coverage Requirement
  - Fund California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) Consent Decree Programs



## CIEMP PROJECT - 1.0

- Capital Improvement and Energy Management Plan (CIEMP)
  - Replace Aging Treatment Processes
  - Meet 2009 NPDES Permit Requirements
  - Improve Working Conditions
  - Develop Energy Efficiencies
- Estimated Construction Costs of \$150M



## **2010 RATE INCREASES**

- Phased Rate Increase in Effect 2010 Through June 2017
  - 2010-2015 Revenue Requirement Increases of 16%, 16%, 9%, 9%, 9%
  - 2015-16 CPI of 1.8%
  - 2016-17 CPI of 1.6%
  - No Increases in Past 2 Years
  - Required to Prepare Rate Study Every 5 Years



## **HOW THE MONEY WAS USED**

- Debt Service Coverage Corrected
- CSPA Consent Decree Programs Funded and Successfully Completed
- Asset Investment and Maintenance Activities
- Cash Reserves Funded
- Additional Monies Used To Offset:
  - Increased Labor Costs
  - No CPI for 2 Years
  - Connection Fee Losses



## **CIEMP PROJECT SINCE 2010**

- CIEMP Project Proceeded
  - 46 Near Term Projects Identified for Construction
  - Initial Project Construction Completed (Safety & Essential Repairs)
  - Funding Plan Approved by Council in July 2012
  - Design Contracts Released for Individual Projects



## **CIEMP PROJECT SINCE 2010**

- Project Put On Hold
  - City Filed Bankruptcy in 2013
  - Staff Resources Drawn Away From Project
  - New NPDES Permit Issued In 2014
    - Lower Nitrate + Nitrite Discharge Limits To San Joaquin River
    - Permit Compliance Schedule with 2024 Deadline
    - Current Treatment Processes Cannot Meet Lower Limit
- Necessary to Redesign Full Project



# CIEMP 2.0 – RWCF MODIFICATIONS PROJECT

- Original Project Focused on Upgrade of Old Infrastructure
- Now Includes Meeting New Discharge Requirements
- Necessitated Redesign of Entire Project
- Ensures City Able to Support Growth and New Industry in Stockton



Unit Process	Changes from CIEMP	Budget Change from Original CIEMP	Comments
Original Project Total		\$150M	
Preliminary Treatment	Modified New Headworks, Repurpose Screening Facility	-\$10M	
<b>Primary Treatment</b>	No Major Changes	\$0	
Secondary Treatment	Add New Secondary Process in lieu of upgrades, Repurpose Biotower PS	+\$80M	Necessary to comply with new state permit requirements
Tertiary Treatment	Add New Filtration & Disinfection instead of rehabilitation	+\$20M	Consolidate operations
Personnel Buildings	Added Stores Relocation	+\$3M	Necessary for staff and public safety
Solids Handling	Remove FOG, Digester Rehab, SLudge Lagoon Modifications	-\$50M	Postpone to a later project
Site Improvement New Project Total	No Major Changes	\$0 <b>\$193M</b>	

MAIN PLANT OUTFALL – NOT IN CIEMP, ~\$8M

## **2018 RATE STUDY**

- Revenue ~\$20M Less Than Projected in 2010 Due to Stagnant Growth
  - 2010 Projected 2018 Rate Revenue at ~ \$80M
  - Actual 2018 Revenue ~ \$65.2M
  - No CPI since FY 2016-17
- Revisit Funding for RWCF Modifications Project
- Review Rates For CPI
  - No Increase Since 16-17
  - Rates Haven't Kept Up with Costs
- Ensures Rates Can Fund Capital Construction, Operations and Maintenance
- Provides Framework For Responsible Management
- Meets Standard for Proposition 218 for Any Proposed Rate

