



MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers
From: CURO
By: Shannon Blanks
CC: Paul Harang and Anita Curran
Date: August 17, 2022
RE: SWBNO Meeting 08.17.2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Board of Directors (the Board) met Wednesday, August 17, 2022. In addition, the Board received updates on the general standing of the SWBNO. The complete packet for the meeting may be found [here](#).

Mayor Cantrell's Opening Remarks

A. Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

COLA pay increases for city and SWBNO employees will go before the city council on September 15, 2022, for approval. The schedule for the COLA increase requests are 5% in 2022, 5% in 2023, 2.5% in 2024, and 2.5% in 2025. The increases are designed to encourage staff retention and recruitment.

B. Financial Investments

Below is a list of some significant initiatives and associated financial investments.

- [1] (2) Static Frequency Changers (SFC) - \$22 million
- [2] Power Substation - \$30 million commitment
- [3] West Power Complex - \$40 million capital outlay allocation
- [4] Fair Share Agreement - \$18.3 million for smart metering infrastructure and Carrollton Water Plant improvements
- [5] Joint Infrastructure Recovery Roads Program - \$2.3 billion in SWBNO and Department of Public Works (DPW) infrastructure projects.

C. Hurricane Season

Preparations for hurricane season have been made. Additionally, power generation is in place at the convention center and all recreation centers throughout the city. Also, Real-time weather pattern detection technology is available in strategic areas in the city.

D. Governance

Pursuant to [H.R.168](#), Director Janet Howard will represent SWBNO on the task force to develop a legal study to determine the governance of the SWBNO and how to make changes to the management.

Executive Director's Report

SWBNO introduces and welcomes Carol Markowitz, a new board member representing the Board of Liquidation-City Debt.

A. Storm Season update

The City of New Orleans recorded 21 inches of rain between May and July 2022. July had 26 days of rain, and July 22nd had the greatest intensity, measuring 6.6” per hour. No significant flood losses have been reported.

B. [Pumping Equipment Status](#)

95 of the 99 drainage pumps are available for use. The offline pumps are listed below.

[1] [DPS 6-Metairie Road](#) – “I” Pump is out of service. The pump is expected to return to service in March 2023. This station has twelve additional drainage pumps.

[2] [DPS 11-Lower Coast Algiers](#) – “E” Pump out of service. This station has three additional drainage pumps.

[3] [DPS 13- Tall Timbers Algiers](#) – “4” Pump on standby for emergency use only. This station has five additional drainage pumps.

[4] [DPS 16- New Orleans East](#) – “2” pump is out of service. This station has three additional drainage pumps.

C. Power Assets

The status of the power assets is listed below.

[1] [Turbine 4 "T4"](#) - Online and available for use.

[2] [Turbine 5 "T5"](#) - Online and available for use.

[3] [Turbine 6 "T6"](#) - Online and available for use.

[4] [EMDs](#) - Four of five units are available for use. The sound attenuation measures are ongoing.

[5] [Frequency Changers](#) - All frequency changers are available for use.

D. West Power Complex (WPC)

The WPC is progressing. The program will cost upward of \$200 million, and SWBNO continues to work to secure funding. Building the entire WPC will require approximately thirteen contracts in addition to the substation. Presently seven of the components are in various stages of development.

[1] Demolition of C7 & C8 Basins - Site preparation for the WPC is nearing completion

[2] SFCs -Three (3) SFCs are in manufacturing.

[3] Utility Rack - The utility rack request for proposal is out to bid. This element will transport the generated power through the plant.

[4] Auxiliary Power - SWBNO is reviewing proposals for auxiliary power, and vendor selection is forthcoming.

[5] Turbine 7 “T7” - “T7” procurement was awarded in May 2022.

E. Infrastructure Resilience & Reliability

[1] Joint Infrastructure Recovery Roads (JIRR) Program - The City of New Orleans and SWBNO have completed 47 projects, 49 are in construction, and seven are out for bid. The leadership of SWBNO and the Department of Public Works (DPW) are conducting joint site visits to identify and resolve issues. Mayor Cantrell and Executive Director Korban state that capacity, supply chain, and inflation are having a direct impact on every project

[2] Water Transmission Main Project - A large water transmission main project on Claiborne Ave. between Upperline and Tulane Stadium is forthcoming. The schedule will be announced upon determination.

F. Workforce Development

SWBNO has issued a request for a proposal to hire a national talent search firm to recruit for several key positions. Such positions include [1] General Superintendent of Operations (GSO), [2] Deputy GSO, [3] Director of Human Resources, [4] Chief Audit Executive, and [5] Comptroller, to name a few.

G. Financial Stability

[1] Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIWAP) - The program has awarded over \$500,000 to low-income households to resume water service or avoid disconnection. This program has the potential to offer \$3 million in assistance to eligible customers. Eligibility information may be found [here](#).

[2] Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR) - The report has been submitted on time. The full report will be available in September.

[3] State and Federal Funding –

a. Closed \$11.1 million in a Department of Environmental Quality(DEQ)

- b. DEQ has made an additional \$31.5 million commitment for the wastewater system.
- c. SWBNO submitting two (2) Water Sector Commission applications
- d. \$10 million Housing and Urban Development earmark has been submitted for the WPC operations center

H. Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach

SWBNO continues stakeholder engagement and community outreach efforts. SWBNO hosts drainage pumping stations and green infrastructure installation tours and attends the Mayor's town hall and improvement association meetings.