

MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers

From: CURO By: Jared Reese

CC: Justyn Hawkins and Anita Curran

Date: December 18, 2024

RE: The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Meeting 12/18/2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Board of Directors (the Board) met on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. In addition, the Board received updates on the general standing of the SWBNO. The complete packet for the meeting may be found [here](#). 1

A. Power Complex

SWBNO had several updates about the Power Complex. First, the organization stated that construction remained on schedule. Additionally, SWBNO stated that cable arrived for the connection to the Entergy substation.

B. Lead Service Lines

SWBNO received six applications during the RFP process. SWBNO said it would vet the applicants over the next 30 days. The company intended to explain its ranking process and its shortlist at the end of the process.

C. Smart Meters

The company reported that it had exceeded the 70,000 goal for installations one week before the December meeting. The total number of installations reached 72,447. The company anticipated that all customers would generate "smart bills" by the end of 2025.

D. Appeals Process

Entergy wanted to meet with HGI about their appeals process. The company did not give any details about the content of the meeting. However, several board members planned to attend.

E. Drainage Consolidation

SWBNO stated that the early stages of the drainage consolidation from DPW had progressed well. The mayor stated that the consent agreement was nearing finalization. Additionally, the project's funding was also close to finalization. SWBNO understood that it needed between \$25

to \$45 million to cover initial costs, but it would not receive that amount in the first year. SWBNO was awarded \$5 million through the fair share program which the city of New Orleans earmarked for the drainage system, the city of New Orleans also forfeited an additional \$6 million of the fair share program to give to SWBNO, and revenue generated from the red light cameras would also go toward funding. SWBNO hoped it could get the millage and a stormwater fee approved by 2026. The company remained optimistic about the first year.

F. People Plan

SWBNO wanted to develop an alternative to civil service. The company scheduled five town hall meetings. The organization planned to collect feedback from the employee surveys, with the intention of drafting a bill for the next legislative session.