

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers

From: CURO By: Jared Reese

CC: Justyn Hawkins and Anita Curran

Date: December 17, 2025

RE: The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Meeting 12/17/2025

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Board of Directors met on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. The complete packet for the meeting may be found [here](#).

#### A. Power Complex Operations

SWBNO completed construction of the power complex on December 17, 2025. SWBNO began reliability testing on SFC2 the previous week, and scheduled testing for SFC3 in January 2025. SWBNO anticipated Turbine 7 testing to begin in the first quarter of 2026.

#### B. Water Master Plan Implementation

SWBNO developed short-term, and long-term initiatives around water system needs. The company implemented operational pilot projects using zinc orthophosphate and AC liquid lime to support mitigation efforts for saltwater intrusion. SWBNO identified mid-term upgrades including valve control, filter media replacements, and intake pump replacements to support system efficiency. The organization planned on upgrading Carrollton water plant in the near future.

#### C. Smart Meter Program Completion

SWBNO installed over 133,000 smart meters, reaching 95% of the customer population. The organization completed the program eight months ahead of schedule. SWBNO emphasized that smart meter deployment increased billing accuracy and improved public trust in utility operations.

#### D. Pressure Monitoring System

SWBNO installed over 4,500 advanced meters equipped with pressure monitoring sensors. The company utilized the system to identify potential bottlenecks in the water distribution network. SWBNO isolated valve failures and closed valves requiring repair, resulting in increased system

pressure. The company addressed a low-pressure situation in the Ninth Ward and Littlewoods area, increasing pressure by 10 PSI through strategic valve repairs and replacements.

#### E. City Reimbursement Status

The company delivered \$235 million toward projects with DPW since 2019. SWBNO owed approximately \$85 million to the city as of October 31, 2025 across various collaborative projects. The company owed approximately \$2.9 million for the payment project and proposed a payment plan. SWBNO reviewed approximately \$5 million in new invoices, with payment dependent on reconciliation processes since both entities invoiced each other for services rendered. The company owed approximately \$13 million for 20 city-led bond projects dating back over 10 years, and entered final reconciliation stages with DPW for these projects. SWBNO owed approximately 75% of total obligations for the JIRR project. The Company paid approximately \$15 million in October and November using grant and sewer finance funds, following the terms of the cooperative endeavor agreement for JIRR repayment.

#### F. Lead Service Line Replacement Program

SWBNO presented the lead service line replacement program to the Public Works Committee in October 2025. The organization faced EPA Lead and Copper Rule Improvements compliance requirements beginning November 2027. SWBNO identified the requirement to remove all lead service lines by 2037 at an estimated cost of approximately \$1 billion for all lead service lines in Orleans Parish.

The company secured \$86 million in State Revolving Fund grants and anticipated closing on approximately \$66 million in SRF loans in the first quarter of 2026.

SWBNO prioritized a contract for service line inspections and replacements focused on protecting New Orleans schools and early learning centers. SWBNO completed over 350 investigations and 14 school lead service line replacements. Additionally, the organization replaced 144 residential lead service lines to date through this contract.

SWBNO announced its final decision to reissue procurement for a project management firm on December 9, 2025. The company anticipated contract award in the first quarter of 2026 following revisions to technical specifications incorporating responses to questions from the first bid period.

SWBNO streamlined the procurement timeline, reducing the normal rebid process from mid-fourth quarter 2026 to early third quarter 2026. The company determined that the bidding protest delayed large-scale construction start by approximately one year and reduced the process to only five months.

The company noted that future federal funding, including low or no-interest EPA loans, depended on the Board's financial capacity to assume additional debt.

SWBNO continued pursuing legal pathways to utilize existing fund sources on private property. The organization maintained all corrosion control and protection measures including distributing pitcher filters for residents with lead or unknown material service lines, providing water testing to residents, and implementing corrosion control treatments.

#### G. Mayoral Administration Achievements

SWBNO recognized the departing mayor's contributions during her final board meeting.

SWBNO acknowledged that the administration secured tens of millions of dollars in additional infrastructure improvement funding through the fair share agreement with the state, constructed two water towers on the east bank, installed residential smart meters in 98% of customer residences, oversaw the JIRR, and completed the power complex.