



MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers
From: CURO
By: Shannon Blanks
CC: Paul Harang and Anita Curran
Date: July 19, 2023
RE: The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Meeting 07.19.2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Board of Directors (the Board) met on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. In addition, the Board received updates on the general standing of the SWBNO. The complete packet for the meeting may be found [here](#).

Executive Director Report

A. Drainage Pumps- 93 of 99 Drainage Pumps are available for use

B. Power Assets- Executive Director Korban reports that sufficient power resources are available to meet peak demand.

- Turbine 4 "T4"- Unavailable; testing is underway.
- Turbine 5 "T5"- Online and available for use. The unit is used as needed due to ongoing issues.
- Turbine 6 "T6"- Online and available for use.
- EMDs- Three of five units are online and available for use.
- Frequency Changers- Five major frequency changers and various smaller ones are available for use. The frequency changers are used instead of T5 when possible.

C. West Power Complex (WPC)- Entergy transmission line work is underway, and the substation will be completed in 2024. Additionally, SWBNO remains on schedule with the construction of the utility rack foundations.

SWBNO was granted \$15 million of the requested \$39 million in Capital Outlay funding, which will be used for a single static frequency changer (SFC) and Turbine 7. On June 28th, the City Council Public Works Committee announced a plan to use \$5 million in fairshare

funds and advance an additional \$5 million to install a second SFC to keep the program on track.

- D. Smart Meter Program**- SWBNO distributes postcards to customers before installing new meters. Meter installations and technology integrations are underway. The installation of larger meters will begin in the fourth quarter of 2023.
- E. Customer Service**- The quantity and quality of the meter readings has increased since implementing the new meter reading strategy. Customers also receive door hangers upon actual meter readings.
- F. Annual Water Quality Report**- SWBNO customers were mailed a brochure containing an annual update and the 2022 water quality report. The brochure may be found [here](#).
- G. 60-inch Sewer Force Main Repair**- A large diameter sewer force main ruptured near Florida Ave. and Peoples Ave. on July 7th, 2023. The break resulted in an emergency sewer bypass to the Mississippi River. Federal and state regulatory agencies and surrounding communities are aware. There have been no signs of adverse impacts on neighboring communities. The main is scheduled for replacement in 2025 as part of a Southeast Louisiana (SELA) project. Additional information may be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).
- H. Pavement Repair**- Significant progress in pavement restoration is ongoing. The backlog is expected to be reduced by approximately 2,000 open cuts by the end of the year, with a goal to eliminate the backlog in 2024.
- I. Internal Audit**- The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is under review. SWBNO will publish the report upon acceptance.
- J. Work Force Development**- Fifty new hires have been through orientation due to the job fair.