




Utility Department Monthly Update

MEETING DATE: October 10, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Daniel Saus, Utility Director 

THROUGH: George Garrett, City Manager

SUBJECT: September 2023 Utility Department Update

A. Wastewater Treatment Plants

1. General Issues

- a. Good progress continues for the Chemical Feed Upgrades project we are finally nearing completion but dragging on because of supply issues.
- b. We advertised the notification of “Intent to Issue” for the WWTP operating permits for Service Areas 3, 4, & 6 and remitted the proof to FDEP. The issuance of our permits is still on hold. Unfortunately, the status remains the same this month.

2. Odor Complaints / Mitigation

- a. We received no odor complaints for the treatment plants in September.

3. Effluent Quality Report/Plant Performance

The August 2023 wastewater facility performance chart is shown below because the January numbers are just being tabulated. The plant permits now require AWT compliance and the operations staff is doing an amazing job as reflected in our effluent quality as shown below. **(Effluent results are always a month behind due to sampling, shipping, & lab reporting)**

**City of Marathon WWTP's Plant
Performance Data for:**

August 2023

Parameters:			CBOD mg/L		TSS mg/L		TN mg/L		TP mg/L	
WWTP	Permit (MGD)	MADF (MGD)	Monthly Average (6.25)	Annual Average (5.0)	Monthly Average (6.25)	Annual Average (5.0)	Monthly Average (3.75)	Annual Average (3.0)	Monthly Average (1.25)	Annual Average (1.0)
AREA 3	0.250	0.111	<2.0	<2.0	1.5	1.4	3.61	1.16	1.18	0.53
AREA 4	0.400	0.312	<2.0	<2.0	2.90	2.2	0.35	0.96	0.40	0.37
AREA 5	0.450	0.359	<2.0	<2.0	1.20	<1.0	0.98	0.67	0.67	0.44
AREA 6	0.200	0.095	2.60	<2.0	<1.0	<1.0	1.13	1.33	0.69	0.42
AREA 7	0.200	0.052	2.27	2.7	<1.0	1.6	1.27	1.28	<0.04	0.14

B. Collection System

1. The month of September had extremely high flows because of the rainfall we received and the king tides happening at the same time.

2. Vacuum Station Salinities for September:
 - a. Vacuum station salinities at the plants were as follows (in parts per thousand): SA3: 2.9; SA4: 3.0; SA5: 4.8; SA6: 1.8 and SA7: 3.7. These values show a minimal to moderate level of infiltration.

3. Wastewater System Connections
 - a. The City's wastewater system parcel connection rate is currently standing at approximately 100%. (Only customers that are in code or do not have a certificate of occupancy are not connected)

4. Code Compliance

- a. There are still currently only 2 open code cases in process for failure to connect to the City's central wastewater system, code violations, or expired permits.

5. Callouts

- a. From September 1st to September 30th there were 48 documented Call outs for the entire Collections System. Of these, 45 were system generated, typically low vacuum detected at one of our Vacuum Stations. These 45 call outs did not result in any inconvenience to our customers in any way as the problems were detected and remedied by Collections/Maintenance City Staff before these problems could become a nuisance to the Homeowners or Residents at these locations.

The Collections System had to deal with two different natural events this month. King Tides and five inches of rain at the same time. This situation caused one of the backups in this report.

- b. The other call outs were as follows:

- i. 9-6-23: Backup Area 4. 800 50th St. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and the Cleanout and found the Vacuum Pit to be in proper working order. Homeowner Issue.

- ii. 9-8-23: Backup Area 7. 350 Coconut Ave. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Grinder Pump Station and found that that two fuses to the Control Panel were blown. He replaced the fuses and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.

- iii. 9-25-23: Backup Area 5. 1179+0 5th Ave. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and found there to not be sufficient vacuum to fire the Vacuum Pit due to King tides and excessive rain putting a strain on the Vacuum station. The Tech found the issues causing the low vacuum and got the Vacuum Pit back operating again. Minor sewage on the floor seeped into the area rug and curtains. Other wise no damage to property. Waiting on property owner to send cleaning bill for drapes and rug to the City for reimbursement.

6. Odor Complaints / Mitigation

We received no odor complaints in September for the collection system.

C. Plant Upgrades & Construction Projects (No changes this month)

1. Due to the permitting issues for the Area 3 WWTP Upgrade project taking almost 3 years and with COVID delays and inflation, the project costs for this project have increased significantly. I've requested finance to investigate if we can transfer the ACOE grant money from the Area 6 Sludge Processing Facility project to this project. The Area 6 project is on the back burner until more funding is received.
2. A CDBG-DR Grant has been received for electrical upgrades, vacuum monitoring system, and flood wall at Area 6 plant. The flood wall is out for bids. The electrical upgrades are also out for bids.
3. The design for the Area 3 WWTP expansion is nearly completed and permitting through FDEP is underway at this time. We advertised the notification of "Intent to Issue" for the WWTP operating permits for Service Areas 3, 4, & 6 and remitted the proof to FDEP. The issuance of our permits is still on hold but FDEP has required us to complete a permit renewal application which we have submitted.

D. Grants Update Summary

1. Due to the permitting issues for the Area 3 WWTP Upgrade project taking almost 3 years and with COVID delays and inflation, the project costs for this project have increased significantly. I've requested finance to investigate if we can transfer the ACOE grant money from the Area 6 Sludge Processing Facility project to this project. The Area 6 project would then be put on the back burner until more funding is received.