




Utility Department Monthly Update

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Daniel Saus, Utility Director 

THROUGH: George Garrett, City Manager

SUBJECT: March 2024 Utility Department Update

A. Wastewater Treatment Plants

1. General Issues

- a. Flows were average for this time of year with the naturally lower tides.
- b. We are preparing a program to get serious about reducing inflow and infiltration. Staff are preparing a test procedure for property owners to test their underground piping. Once we find infiltration on a main line we intend to send letters out the those properties and require them to do testing and perform any needed repairs to keep salt water out of the collection system. We are also going to meet with local plumbers to discuss what we are trying to accomplish and how to go about completing those tasks.

2. Odor Complaints / Mitigation

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

3. Effluent Quality Report/Plant Performance

The January 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:**

January 2024

| 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 | 0.110 | 3.55 | 2.6 | 2.40 | 1.7 | 7.50 | 1.71 | 0.30 | 0.70 |
| AREA 4 | 0.400 | 0.305 | <2.0 | <2.0 | 1.56 | 2.4 | 1.15 | 0.87 | 0.15 | 0.44 |
| AREA 5 | 0.450 | 3.42 | 3.20 | <2.0 | <1.0 | 1.0 | 0.68 | 0.74 | 0.11 | 0.44 |
| AREA 6 | 0.200 | 0.1.07 | 5.90 | 2.4 | <1.0 | <1.0 | 0.98 | 1.22 | 0.88 | 0.42 |
| AREA 7 | 0.200 | 0.071 | 6.27 | 3.5 | <1.0 | 1.4 | 2.27 | 1.24 | 0.14 | 0.14 |

B. Collection System

1. The month of January had normal high tides but because of the rainfall we received the collections crew was extremely busy.

2. Vacuum Station Salinities for January:
 - a. Vacuum station salinities at the plants were as follows (in parts per thousand): SA3: 3.0; SA4: 1.8; SA5: 3.4; SA6: 1.1 and SA7: 1.7. These values show a minimal 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 January 1st to January 31st there were 79 documented Call outs for the entire Collections System. Of these, 64 systems typically generated a low vacuum detected at one of our Vacuum Stations. These 64 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.

- b. The other call outs were as follows:

- i. 1-5-24: Backup Area 5. 650 E. 105th St. Ocean. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Valve and Controller. He replaced both components and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.

- ii. 1-7-24: Backup Area 4. 243 Sombrero Bch. Rd. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to be in good working order. He let the Homeowner know to call a plumber.

- iii. 1-9-24: Backup Area 4. 1 Sandpiper Ln. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to be in good working order. He let the Homeowner know to call a plumber.

- iv. 1-13-24: Backup Area 15 Remote. 625 73rd St. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Valve and Controller. He replaced both components and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.

- v. 1-14-24: Backup Area 4. 89 Calle Ensueno. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Valve and Controller. He replaced both components and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.

- vi. 1-17-24: Backup Area 4. 124 Calle Ensueno. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Valve and Controller. He replaced both components and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.
- vii. 1-17-24: Backup Area 4. 1128 Calle Ensenada. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Valve and Controller. He replaced both components and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.
- viii. 1-18-24: Backup Area 723 W. 105th St. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Valve and Controller. He replaced both components and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.
- ix. 1-19-24: Backup Area 3. 1478 Coral Dr. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Valve and Controller. He replaced both components and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.
- x. 1-19-24: Backup Area 3. 1468 O/S Hwy. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Breather. He replaced the Breather and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.
- xi. 1-21-24: Backup Area 4. 119 Calle Ensueno. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Valve and Controller. He replaced both components and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.
- xii. 1-24-24: Backup Area 4. 125 Calle Ensueno. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the Fernco's to have failed. He replaced both Fernco's and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.
- xiii. 1-27-24: Backup Area 4. 723 W. 105th St. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Valve and Controller. He replaced both components and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.
- xiv. 1-27-24: Backup Area 5 Remote. 401 Oceanview. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and

inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to have a bad Valve and Controller. He replaced both components and put the unit back into service. No damage to property.

xv. 1-30-24: Backup Area 5. 265 2nd St. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to be in good working order. He let the Homeowner know to call a plumber.

6. Odor Complaints / Mitigation

We received no odor complaints in January 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. We are still encountering delays.
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 on hold for now due to the costs. The electrical upgrades project has begun.
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. We continue to have delays.

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.