

**Wastewater Large Users Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday January 15, 2025 – 1:30 P.M.**  
**Island City Park Preserve, 823 NE 28 Street, Wilton Manors, FL 33334**

**Voting Members Present:**

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director - Utilities  
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Public Works Interim Director  
Albert Carbon, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Director  
Rhonda Montoya Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Assistant City Attorney  
Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Facilities Manager (for Miguel Arroyo)  
Jud Hopping, City of Fort Lauderdale / Distribution and Collection Systems Manager

**Roll Call:**

Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager  
Leigh Ann Henderson, City of Wilton Manors / City Manager  
Paul Rolli, City of Wilton Manors / City Commission  
Roberto Moore, City of Wilton Manors / Community Development Services Director  
Gerald Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor  
Rafael Diaz, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Crew Leader  
Jason Snifeld, City of Fort Lauderdale / Division Manager  
Shannon Barrett, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator  
Miriam Barahona, City of Fort Lauderdale / Chief Accountant  
Carolyn Walton, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administrator  
Christeena Sutherland, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant  
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

**Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam**

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m., welcomed everyone, and thanked the City of Wilton Manors for hosting the meeting.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked everyone to introduce themselves, and verified there was a quorum. He mentioned that this is a publicly notice meeting.

Approval of October 23, 2024 Meeting minutes. Motion made by Jud Hopping to approve meeting minutes. Albert Carbon seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned as of January 15, 2025, the Task Order has been approved to do the study regarding the allocation and the wastewater agreements. He mentioned that the Notice to Proceed was sent to the Consultant. A few copies were distributed to each municipality present at the meeting and a copy will be sent via email later. Mr. Abi-Karam stated any discussions regarding the Task Order should be in a public forum, subject to Sunshine laws. He mentioned that the Consultant will be conducting separate interviews with each municipality for input and then schedule a kick-off meeting.

## **Update on the G.T. Lohmeyer (GTL) Wastewater Treatment Plant – Justin Murray** **Construction Project Updates**

- P12530 (Deepwell Electrical Power & Instrumentation) – This project will install new power and instrumentation wiring, applicable conduits, and duct banks at the Deepwell Facility from the control building to each of the five (5) underground injection wells and the three monitoring wells. The small control building where the valve controls are located will also be hardened for hurricanes. The \$2.9 million project began construction January 25, 2022 and completion was scheduled for February 2024. The contractor is currently addressing the punch list items. The project has been delayed and is scheduled to be completed by end of fourth quarter of 2025.
- P12528 (GTL Chlorine Flash Mix Remodel) – The notice to proceed (NTP) for this \$11.1 million project was issued July 24, 2023. This project will reroute the treated effluent in order to demolish the chlorine flash mix basin and provide space for future generators. The project is behind schedule but under budget. The flow has been successfully rerouted around the dewatering building and demolition of the chlorine flash mix basin has begun. Final completion is scheduled for the first quarter of 2025.
- P12800 (GTL Reactor Rehabilitation) – The repair of concrete and application of protective coatings is needed in 3 of the remaining 4 treatment reactors along with new mechanical mixers on the reactor roofs. A task order for design services was executed and 60% engineering design was submitted in December 2024 for City review.
- P12876 (GTL Clarifier Rehabilitation) – The repair and selected replacement of components of most of the 11 clarifiers was analyzed by the consultant. A technical memorandum is expected in the first quarter of 2025, with detailed design to follow. Initial class 5 cost estimates are in excess of \$30 Million to repair structural and mechanical issues.
- P12529 (Effluent Pumps Standby Generator & Administrative Building Improvements) – This project is mandated by the FDEP amended consent order (2020) to provide standby power generators and ensure that all effluent pumps can run without FP&L power. A total of \$28 million is funded through the Community Investment Plan. The project is required to be completed by August 2025. The generators have been Owner-purchased via competitive bid and are expected to be delivered by June 2025. The project was awarded in September 2024 but subsequently cancelled due to the Contractor's inability to obtain a performance bond. The project will rebid in the first quarter 2025. A high risk exists that the Consent Order deadline is not met.
- P12169/12702/12252 (GTL Odor Control & Sludge Holding Tank Covers and Roof) – New odor control equipment for the Pretreatment Building and Sludge Holding tanks, upgrade of the electrical unit substations in the Pretreatment Building and other needed infrastructure was advertised in a design/build criteria package December

2023 – May 2024. Only one proposal was received from AECOM. Negotiations were held between Procurement Department and AECOM to optimize the scope and fee from the initial proposal of \$26M to \$21M. Award of the Contract was anticipated by the end of 2024, but the effort has been delayed multiple times due to problems on other projects performed by AECOM. A high risk exists; this project will need to be re-advertised.

**Flows:**

- Annual average flow for the last twelve months are currently 44.1 MGD. The rolling 3-month average for December 2024 was 47.9 MGD compared to the permitted value of 61.58 mgd. The contribution of each Large User is shown below:

**Table 1. Large User Current Flows**

Large User	Present Year Allocation* (MGD)	3-Yr ADF as of:		
		Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
Fort Lauderdale		38.0	37.9	37.9
Oakland Park	2.93 / 3.93	5.1	5.1	5.1
Wilton Manors	**2.15 / 2.46	2.32	2.29	2.28
Tamarac	0.226 / 0.260	0.330	0.338	0.397
Davie	0.10 / 0.22	0.12	0.12	0.12

\*AADF / Max Monthly

\*\*Correction made due to communication on April 25, 2024 from City of Fort Lauderdale City Manager to City of Wilton Manors, to increase wastewater capacity by 0.1742 MGD (copy attached), and not through modification of Large User’s agreement.

**Operational Issues/Accomplishments**

- The VPSA failed during the warranty period. The manufacturer and general contractor are challenging the warranty coverage, claiming negligence by the City. The City is contesting the allegation and issued contractual notice declaring the Contractor in default. In the meantime, daily liquid oxygen deliveries are imposing an average operational cost of \$160,000 per month. Mediation is being scheduled for this year.

**Permitted Capacity Issues**

## **Budgetary Issues**

- Surcharges have been assessed per the Large User Agreement since January 2024.

## **Old and New Business**

None

Mr. Abi-Karam asked about the generators' project on the consent order. Mr. Murray said the deadline was extended but is currently at high risk of missing the extended deadline. He stated the bid was cancelled due to no performance bond from the lowest bidder, and Project Manager / Procurement Division will rebid the project. Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned the large expenditure in FY25, due to the City having to purchase oxygen until the system (VPSA) is working again, will reflect in future financial report.

Mr. Carbon asked if the expenses for the oxygen were included in FY25 budget. Mr. Murray said that mediation has not been scheduled as of date. Mr. Carbon pointed out the price on Project 12800 was not mentioned on the GTL Update. Mr. Murray said that it is part of the CIP five-year plan.

## **Progress Update** - Regional Force mains and Repump Stations Projects (CIP)

No update from City of Fort Lauderdale on capital projects.

Mr. Carbon mentioned the concerns about the project on 38<sup>th</sup> Street, from Dixie Highway to US 1, where the MOT plans were submitted but not reviewed; there was not much clarity on the detour signs placed; and emphasized that this is not a good start to the project.

## **Financial Position**

Shannon Barrett said that according to the revised financial report, the revenues are currently under the 25% threshold (20.24%), and the expenditures are currently at 38.24% for FY25. Ms. Barrett explained that the audit / reimbursement for FY24 reporting is ongoing and should be completed by the next Wastewater Large Users Advisory Board meeting.

## **Old/New Business** - Wastewater Capacity / I&I

No update

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. and will be hosted by the City of Oakland Park, 1500 NE 12 Terrace, Oakland Park, FL .

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Abi-Karam moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Attachment



April 25, 2024

2.1542 MGD

Leigh Ann Henderson  
City Manager  
City of Wilton Manors  
2020 Wilton Drive  
Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Dear Ms. Henderson:

The City of Fort Lauderdale (City) is in receipt of your request for a wastewater capacity increase for the City of Wilton Manors and subsequent request for an independent evaluation of capacity allocations and financial structure. As noted in your letter dated November 13, 2023, Wilton Manors is limited to a monthly annual average daily flow (AADF) of 1.98 million gallons per day (MGD) of sewage into the City's wastewater system for fiscal year 2024; however, your current average flow is exceeding the agreed upon allocation. While the Large User Wastewater Agreement between the City and Wilton Manors defines your allowable sewage flows through fiscal year 2051, your written request only references future years up to fiscal year 2029 – see summary table below:

Fiscal Year	Current Monthly Allocation (AADF)*	Requested Monthly Allocation (AADF)	Increase in Allocation (AADF)
FY24-25	1.98 MGD	2.30 MGD	0.32 MGD
FY25-26	1.98 MGD	2.37 MGD	0.39 MGD
FY26-27	1.98 MGD	2.44 MGD	0.46 MGD
FY27-28	1.97 MGD	2.51 MGD	0.54 MGD
FY28-29	1.97 MGD	2.59 MGD	0.62 MGD

*\*Allowable AADF as defined in Article 3.4 of the City of Wilton Manors' Large User Wastewater Agreement, executed March 22, 2022.*

Your letter outlined several factors behind your reasoning for the increases in capacity that are being requested. Much of the data used in your projections is speculative, rather than demonstrable and your methodology for calculating sewage flows based on population or living units does not meet City standards for flow calculations. Additionally, rather than maintaining a thorough and accurate database on existing sewage flows and known/approved development flow increases, and without a detailed explanation on how you are projecting your city's population growth, it appears the baseline flow you are using to add the increased allocations to is merely based on the flow values provided to you by the City. As such, the basis for your request is insufficient for the City to analyze and make any reasonable decisions regarding your needs or the City's ability to increase your current allocations. With that said, however, we agree the best way to resolve each Large User's concerns of distributing sewage flow capacity is through a third party, independent assessment to allocate capacity in a more systematic approach and will initiate such an effort. While work on this assessment proceeds, the City will increase your capacity



allocation due to a recent change in permitted sewage treatment capacity at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant (GTL).

On January 16, 2024, the City was successful in negotiating an increase in our permitted sewage treatment capacity from 56.6 MGD to 61.58 MGD. This 4.98 MGD increase in capacity will be apportioned based on current allocations outlined in each Large User Wastewater Agreement. For the City of Wilton Manors, this will result in an additional allocation of 0.1742 MGD, which equates to a new wastewater allocation of 2.1542 MGD monthly AADF for FY23-24. Your request to suspend surcharges for excessive flows requires modification of the Large Users Agreements that currently are in effect. This would need to be brought to the City Commission for consideration and ratification.

### **Background:**

When we embarked on the renewal of the Large User Agreements, we sent e-mails to all participants requesting their population and flow projections for their respective municipalities. (e-mail dated April 6, 2021). The City of Wilton Manors provided us with their flow projections (e-mail dated April 14, 2021). The City of Fort Lauderdale provided all Large Users, including Wilton Manors, the opportunity to review the finalized draft agreements (e-mail dated October 8, 2021). Notwithstanding this communication between the cities, your letter asserts that the City came up with the allocations for Wilton Manors on our own and that Wilton Manors never had the chance to review, modify, or confirm/approve its allocations. Additionally, in Article 3.4 of Wilton Manor's executed Large User Wastewater Agreement, Wilton Manors (i.e., the "Customer") agreed that it has reviewed its present needs for wastewater transmission and treatment services and have projected its future needs as shown in the allocation table found in the same Article.

### **Approach and Resources**

For all calculations, the City has utilized long-range planning documents, as well as historical data. For that purpose, the following resources were utilized for the City of Wilton Manors:

- 20-Year Water Supply Facility Work Plan, January 2021, Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc.
- City of Wilton Manors Comprehensive Plan Amendment, (20-01ESR), February 2021
- City of Wilton Manors bulk water sales for Years 2018, 2019, 2020
- Future Wastewater Flow Projection (Section 3.4), prepared by Baxter & Woodman, Inc.
- City of Wilton Manors population growth projections
- City of Wilton Manors water consumption in gallons per capita per day (gpcpd)

### **Methodology**

As Utility Managers, the City has adopted a scientific approach to the wastewater allocations in all agreements by utilizing all available planning resources and historic data, in addition to utilizing a transparent calculation methodology. Attached is a spreadsheet for all compilations and calculations for the City of Wilton Manors.

The following summary is provided:

1. The City used the information and documents provided by the City of Wilton Manors.
2. The City started off with the bulk water sales for the previous three years prior to the Agreement which were: 2018, 2019, and 2020.
3. The City computed 3-years average water use for 2018, 2019, and 2020, with an average of *1.23 MGD (AADF)*, and Average Max Month of *1.52 MGD*.
4. Wilton Manors' feedback/flow projections for FY2020 and FY2021 showed *1.98 MGD (AADF)*. This represents a **62 percent** increase from the calculated running 3-year water consumption average of *1.23 MGD (AADF)*. Contrary to historical data and the calculations used by us, which showed a lower usage demand, we ultimately allocated *1.98 MGD* as requested by the City of Wilton Manors.
5. A comparison of the wastewater allocation in the executed Agreement Section 3.4 and wastewater projections provided by Wilton Manors, generally shows that Wilton Manors received the wastewater allocations that they requested. Article 3.4 of the Agreement includes the same numbers provided by Wilton Manors, as prepared by Baxter & Woodman, Inc. (Wilton Manors' consultant).
6. The City minimally adjusted some future allocations due to a projected population decline in future years. Population numbers were obtained from the City of Wilton Manors' Comprehensive Plan, and its 20-Year Water Supply Plan. Where adjustments were made, they were calculated based on population numbers multiplied by water consumption rate in gallons per capita per day (gpcpd), which is a common and standard procedure.
7. For intermediate years between milestone years 2025, 2030, 2040, and 2050, the City used straight interpolation of the data provided by Baxter & Woodman, Inc.
8. The City made a conservative assumption that for every one gallon of water the City sells to Wilton Manors, the City receives one gallon back in sewer (100% return). This is typically not the case, as return sewage is typically less than the supplied/consumed water, (about 80% - 85% typically) due to irrigation, washing cars, etc.

### **Requested Increase in Wastewater Allocation (FY 2024-2029)**

The overall capacity of the Large Users' system (GTL plant, pumping stations, injection wells, sewage collection system, etc.) is strained. System stressors include, (a) aged infrastructure with persistent high inflow and infiltration (I&I) volume, including major contributions from the Large Users; (b) unexpected, highly densified development activities in all municipalities; (c) more frequent, extreme weather events, such as the recent 1000-year rainstorm event ("April Flood 2023"), unseasonably heavy and continuous rains (e.g., November 2023), Hurricane Ian (September 2022), and Tropical Storm Eta (November 2020), and the effects of sea level rise.

To mitigate the situation, the City of Fort Lauderdale's recent letter to all Large Users highlighted several actions currently underway. These actions include increased investment of over *\$100 million in the next five years* for an inflow/infiltration reduction program, and numerous capital investment projects at the GTL wastewater treatment




plant, including a capital program for cleaning the deep injections wells every 2.5 years (instead of the required 5 years) to restore and maintain higher disposal capacities. To better provide for all user needs, the City engaged CDM Smith to prepare a Report regarding the GTL Plant and system capacity. On October 12, 2023, the City submitted an application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requesting to re-rate GTL capacity from 56.6 MGD (TMADF) to 61.58 MGD (TMADF). FDEP approved this request on January 16, 2024.

## **Conclusion**

Upon examination of the potable water supplied to and wastewater flows returned from the City of Wilton Manors, it is evident that Wilton Manors is exceeding its wastewater allocation per the current agreement and is returning more sewage to the City of Fort Lauderdale than the bulk water supplied by the City. Despite the on-going I&I projects in Wilton Manors, current flow data does not show any measurable decrease in sewer flows.

Based on Wilton Manors' current allocation exceedance, which appears to show major I&I issues in the Wilton Manors' sewage collection system; missing details on Wilton Manors' capital construction efforts to reduce I&I flows; the lack of empirical data used in your current flow needs and future needs calculations; inaccurate assertions regarding how Wilton Manors' monthly allocations were derived for your current Large Users Wastewater Agreement; and the recency of the current Large User Agreement, the City is unable to support your request as provided in the November 13, 2023 letter. We are, however, able to support an increase of 0.1742 MGD based on the recent rerating of the GTL Wastewater Treatment Plant operating permit. We also will proceed with initiating a third party, independent assessment to allocate capacity in a more systematic approach, which can be used as the basis for a new Agreement for each of the Large Users. Should you desire to discuss this matter further, you may attend the next regularly scheduled Large User Advisory Board meeting or contact me directly at any time.

Sincerely,

  
Greg Chavarria (Apr 26, 2024 09:44 EDT)

Greg Chavarria  
City Manager

c: Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager  
Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager  
Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney  
Alan Dodd, Director, Public Works  
Rhonda Montoya Hasan, Assistant City Attorney






# CMO letter to Wilton Manors 4 25 2024

Final Audit Report

2024-04-26

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