

Wastewater Large Users Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday APRIL 23, 2025 – 1:30 P.M.
City of Oakland Park, 5100 NE 12 Terrace, Oakland Park, FL 33334

Voting Members Present:

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Interim Director – Public Works
Alan Dodd, City of Wilton Manors / Public Works Director
Albert Carbon, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Director
Rhonda Montoya Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Assistant City Attorney
Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale / Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager
Jud Hopping, City of Fort Lauderdale / Distribution and Collection Systems Manager

Roll Call:

Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager
Chris Lips, City of Oakland Park / Assistant Public Works Director
Leigh Ann Henderson, City of Wilton Manors / City Manager
Paul Rolli, City of Wilton Manors / City Commission
Carol Conol, City of Wilton Manors / Finance Director
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant Director-Public Works
Gerald Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor
Brian London, City of Tamarac / Superintendent
Tim O'Neil, CDM
Julio Teieda, South Florida Water Management District
Gabrielle Bork, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Project Manager
Igor Vassiliev, City of Fort Lauderdale / Project Manager II (left at 2:00 pm)
Robert Harris, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Operations Supervisor
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 / Financial Administrator
Barbara Smith, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m., welcomed everyone, and thanked the City of Oakland Park 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 January 20, 2025 Meeting minutes. Mr. Dodd noted that Table 1 on Page 3 of the GTL Presentation requires correction to reflect the updated flow allocation for Wilton Manors, increasing from 1.98 MGD to 2.15 MGD; via letter/email to City Manager from City of Fort Lauderdale to City of Wilton Manors, approving an additional increase of 0.1742 MGD. He mentioned the Large User Agreement will need to be amended to reflect the

newly agreed current flows for Wilton Manors, an additional 0.1742 MGD. (copy of letter attached).

Motion made by Jud Hopping to approve meeting minutes, as amended. Miguel Arroyo seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved, as amended. Vote was unanimous.

Update on the G.T. Lohmeyer (GTL) Wastewater Treatment Plant – Miguel Arroyo Construction Project Updates

- P12171 (BUTLER BUILDING UPGRADE AT GTL WELLFIELD)- – The bid package was advertised, and the city intend to award the project at a cost of \$2.6 million. Parks and Recreation has successfully secured the necessary funds for the project. Construction contract award CAM will be included in the Commission Agenda Meeting on May 6, 2025. Following the approval city staff anticipate having a preconstruction meeting by the second week of May 2025.
- 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 on January 25, 2022. The contractor is working on the punch list items with anticipated resolution in the third quarter 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 been completed. The contractor is currently installing the vaults and duct-bank for the Standby Generator project. Final completion is expected by the end of the second quarter 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. A field meeting was conducted with PW Engineering on site to discuss status on April 9, 2025. The 90% design submittal was received on April 11, 2025. PW Engineering plans to proceed to the 100% submittal and prepare bid documents for the construction of Phase 1 – Reactor Trains B and C, which are expected to be awarded by August 2025. Phase 2 construction will be awarded with the allocation of FY 2026 CIP funds scheduled for October 2025.

- 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. PW Engineering is evaluating the required funding.
- 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. An extension was approved by FDEP to move the completion of the project from August 2025 to May 2, 2026. The generators have been owner-purchased via competitive bid and are on schedule to be delivered by June 2025. The project was awarded in September 2024, but the award was cancelled due to the contractor’s inability to obtain a performance bond. The contract will be rebid in April 2025.
- 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 the 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. On Tuesday, April 1, 2025, the Agreement (209) was passed by the City Commission of Fort Lauderdale.

Flows:

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently 43.59 MGD. The rolling 3-month average for March 2025 was 38.4 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:		
		JAN 2025	FEB 2025	MAR 2025
Fort Lauderdale		37.9	37.8	37.7
Oakland Park	2.93 / 3.93	5.1	5.0	4.9
Wilton Manors	**2.15 / 2.46	2.26	2.26	2.26
Tamarac	0.226 / 0.260	0.399	0.350	0.348
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 operational cost of \$160,000 per month. Mediation and analysis ongoing.

Permitted Capacity Issues

Budgetary Issues

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

Old and New Business

None

Mr. Dodd questioned the risks of the generators' installation. Ms. Bork said that the consent order was extended through May 16, 2026 and staff are trying to award a contract to make the deadline; as of date, it is not a risk.

Mr. Carbon asked about the budgeted CIP amount for the Odor Control project (Project 12169). Mr. Snifeld said it was estimated at \$5.2 million in FY2024 CIP. Mr. Abi-Karam said the original scope was \$5.2 million but additional mini projects were aggregated under the same bid. Mr. Arroyo said Project 12169 was modified to approximately \$18,678,000 and then increased to \$2.7M which equals \$21,191,000.

Progress Update – Regional Forcemains and Repump Stations Projects (CIP)

Ms. Bork said the Coral Ridge Country Club force main replacement project was separated into four (4) phases, in which Phases 1 through 3 have been completed. The next phase on NE 38 Street will be starting on Monday (April 28) and has been in contact with City of Oakland Park. Ms. Bork mentioned this project is part of the consent order and the deadline for completion is September 30, 2026. Ms. Bork said the extension on the consent order was only for the generators. Mr. Dodd asked about any impact on the B Repump operations due to upcoming rainy season. Ms. Bork said that it should be completed by early June, 2025.

Mr. Hopping said the fuel tank to the generator on the B Repump failed two years ago and staff is finalizing the permits for replacement.

Mr. Carbon asked about the operational issues at GTL (VPSA). Mr. Arroyo said the unit is still down and staff is spending \$160,000 a month on liquid oxygen. He stated that a memo was prepared to present the various options. Mr. Carbon asked who is paying for the legal aspects. Mr. Arroyo said the Operations are currently paying. Ms. Hasan stated the mediation (on March 12, 2025) was not successful and has not received any further directions from City Manager as of date as to whether to continue with mediation or explore other options. It was confirmed that approximately \$1.9 million was spent on oxygen and the quote for \$1.1 million was only to replace the sieve.

Financial Position

Shannon Barrett said that according to financial report, the revenues are currently under the 50% threshold (43.84%), and the expenditures are currently at 53.44% for FY25.

Ms. Barrett stated the Finance Department will soon begin work on the fiscal year 2024 audit.

Mr. Carbon requested a summary of all flows / calculations for FY2023.

Old/New Business

Wastewater Capacity and I&I

Mr. Abi-Karam said Ardurra has been engaged and conducting a lot of analyses in terms of SSES (Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey) and analyzing the system to come up with basin prioritization in terms of I&I reduction and has \$110M-\$120M investment for 10 years. Hazen and Sawyer, as part of the consent order, has completed some assessments on the pump stations and staff from DSD have the run times. Staff are working towards a fully developed program on I&I.

Update on Fort Lauderdale Capacity Allocation Review Study

Mr. Abi-Karam said Black & Veatch is finalizing the remaining piece with Port Everglades and a Draft report will be submitted by mid-May. He stated the intent is to provide comments with a scheduled meeting.

2023 Wastewater Reconciliation

Mr. Snifeld said there were two large factors that dictated the large increase in the true-up. He stated the rate for FY2023 was set at \$2.55 following a vote by the Large Users Advisory Board on July 20, 2022. He said the rate was selected despite discussions about 10-15% increase based on rising costs and construction. In FY22, the rate was \$2.68 and was reduced in FY23. He said if the Board had accounted for 10-15% increase, it would have resulted in a rate of \$2.95 - \$3.08 which would have been within the ballpark, and the true-up would have been different if the rate was set at the proposed rate. Mr. Snifeld said they are still reviewing the overall increase between FY21 and FY22. He stated a large amount was identified to be funded in the R&R report between FY21 and FY22 – from \$302M to \$512M due to increased operational and construction costs.

Mr. Dodd requested a copy of the FY21 and FY22 R&R report.

Mr. Carbon asked the status of the R&R report. Mr. O'Neil said they are working on the R&R report. Mr. Carbon asked for a copy before the next scheduled meeting, if possible.

Ms. Henderson asked for a special scheduled meeting to review the Black & Veatch report. Mr. Abi-Karam said once the Draft report is received, a meeting will be scheduled.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. and will be hosted by the City of Wilton Manors.

Adjournment

Mr. Abi-Karam moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Attachment