



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 25- 273

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: December 15, 2025
SUBJECT: **Water Consent Order (OCG 24-2464) Update**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission that the City has concluded negotiations with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regarding Consent Order (OCG 24-2464) for the City's water distribution system. As noted in LTC No. 25-216, dated October 31, 2025, this Consent Order aims to address challenges related to the age and condition of the network, requiring comprehensive condition assessments and the implementation of asset management practices.

The City's water distribution system is comprised of:

- 783 miles of watermains, ranging from two-inch (2") to fifty-four-inch (54") diameter;
- 14,603 valves and 6,384 hydrants;
- 22.6 million gallons of water storage capacity;
- Forty-three (43) square miles of service area;
- 132 water sample stations for quality monitoring;
- 63,825 water and irrigation meters; and
- Ten (10) interconnects with Broward County and the City of Pompano combined.

The Consent Order addresses the City's aging water infrastructure, which experienced several distribution system breaks between September 2023 and April 2025 that required emergency repairs. In response, the Consent Order initiatives focus on strengthening system reliability and proactively improving areas affected by age and condition.

All corrective actions required under the Consent Order must be completed within three (3) years of the Consent Order's effective date, which will be established once both parties have executed the Consent Order. Commission Agenda Memorandum #25-1031 is scheduled for City Commission consideration at the January 6, 2026, City Commission Regular Meeting.

The City currently has approximately \$5 million in available funding for Program Management for the Water and Sewer Consent Order projects. If additional funding becomes necessary, it will be identified and appropriated as part of the annual budget process.

The Consent Order requires the City to:

1. Conduct a Condition Assessment

FDEP Requirement: The City must engage a Florida-licensed Professional Engineer to perform a comprehensive condition assessment of all pipes six inches (6") and larger, as well as storage facilities, valves, and pumps. The assessment must evaluate system age, materials, maintenance and inspection history, corrosion, and remaining service life to support prioritization of repairs and preventive maintenance.

City Action: The water distribution assets in Cityworks, the City's asset management system, are due to be assessed and receive condition scores. The City plans to award a general Public Works and Utility Services Asset Management Consulting Services contract to three (3) firms by early 2026, with one (1) of their assigned tasks being to conduct the condition assessment and update Cityworks with the results. The timeline is projected to be eighteen (18) months.

2. Prepare a Condition Assessment Report

FDEP Requirement: Following the condition assessment, the City must submit a signed and sealed report by a Florida-licensed Professional Engineer identifying components most vulnerable to failure or contamination. The report must include a distribution plan and schedule detailing how and when repair, rehabilitation, or replacement activities will be performed, which will guide Community Investment Plan (CIP) prioritization.

City Action: The consultant(s) that conducts the condition assessment will prepare the condition assessment report. The timeline is projected to be twenty-one (21) months.

3. Develop an Asset Management and Maintenance Program

FDEP Requirement: The City must develop and implement a formal Asset Management and Maintenance Program for the drinking water distribution system to ensure ongoing maintenance, routine assessment, and strategic infrastructure improvements that minimize failures and service disruptions.

City Action: The City will engage a consultant to develop a comprehensive Asset Management and Maintenance Program that will establish maintenance standards, inspection protocols, and the Cityworks workflows to support preventive maintenance and long-term system performance. The timeline is projected to be twenty-eight (28) months.

Implement an Infrastructure Management Tracking System

FDEP Requirement: The City must implement a comprehensive Infrastructure Management Tracking System to support and enhance the operation of the Asset Management and Maintenance Program for the water distribution system.

City Action: Cityworks will serve as the central system to integrate infrastructure condition assessments, maintenance activities, and capital planning. Cityworks will also track asset lifecycles, condition, and service history, while managing maintenance work to ensure timely execution. The timeline is projected to be twenty-eight (28) months.

4. Submit Semiannual Progress Reports

FDEP Requirement: The City must provide progress reports to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection every six (6) months.

City Action: The City will utilize its existing Program Management contract for Water and Sewer Consent Order Projects to submit the required progress reports. The timeline is projected to be continuous until the completion of the project, or three (3) years.

For further information, please contact Albert Carbon, PE, Utility Services Director, at ACarbon@fortlauderdale.gov.

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors