

**Wastewater Large Users Advisory Board Special Workshop Meeting
Wednesday SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 – 1:30 P.M.
City of Wilton Manors, 2020 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305**

Voting Members Present:

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant 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
Jason Snifeld, City of Fort Lauderdale / Division Manager

Roll Call:

Leigh Ann Henderson, City of Wilton Manors / City Manager
Anita Behmardi, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant City Manager
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant Director-Public Works
Gerald Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor
Brian London, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Superintendent
Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park /
Chris Lips, City of Oakland Park / Assistant Public Works Director
Ariel Filgueira, City of Fort Lauderdale / Process Control Engineer
Igor Vassiliev, City of Fort Lauderdale / Project Manager II (left at 2:00 pm)
Jessica Boland, City of Fort Lauderdale / Program Manager
Miriam Barahona, City of Fort Lauderdale / Chief Accountant
Christeena Sutherland, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administrator
Barbara Smith, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator
Steve Hillberg, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Project Manager
Isabel Botero, Black & Veatch / Client Director
Emeliz Torres, Black & Veatch / Project Manager
Irela Bague, Black & Veatch / Director Water Resilience
Jorge Villalobos, Black & Veatch / Consultant
Prabha Kumar, Black & Veach – Managing Director
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m., welcomed everyone, and thanked the City of Wilton Manors for hosting the meeting.

Mr. Abi-Karam said the focus of this meeting will be the presentation of the report compiled by Consultant Black & Veatch on the Capacity Allocation Review Study.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked everyone to introduce themselves and verified there was a quorum. He mentioned that this is a publicly notice meeting and strictly related to wastewater in the regional system.

Mr. Abi-Karam stated that the City of Fort Lauderdale (City) developed the Wastewater Large Users' Agreements with the five municipalities in March, 2022, and there were some concerns expressed (by the Large Users) over the following years regarding some provisions of the agreements and as a result, the City engaged Consultant Black & Veatch (B&V) to review some aspects and provide a report of their findings. B&V provided a second DRAFT report on September 17, 2025 which was distributed to the Large Users Board for review. Mr. Abi-Karam noted that due to limited timeframe between the report's distribution and the date of this meeting, the municipalities may not have had sufficient time to fully review the report.

Ms. Kumar, Managing Director of B&V, stated this discussion is to provide a quick recap of the study, a review of the alignment of the key objectives, an overview of the study approach, and a summary of key considerations that emerged from the findings. Ms. Kumar noted that interviews were conducted with each municipality and independent input were received as far as strengths and concerns.

Ms. Kumar explained the scope of work was to review each of the existing Large User agreements, review the capacity allocation and fee structure, and an analysis of historical actual flows to assess alignment aligned with the capacity allocation defined in the agreement. Ms. Kumar said a comparative review was conducted with other regional providers to benchmark practices and fee structures.

Ms. Kumar stated the data sources used were the agreements, billing flow data for 15 months, October 2023 – September 2024, also, October 2024-December 2024, with the understanding that the billing for the surcharges began in January 2024; billing invoices for each month from the City and municipalities. In addition, B&V recently received the wastewater treatment plant capacity and stated that Fort Lauderdale does not have a defined monthly allocation and B&V calculated an estimate for Fort Lauderdale for this task; noting that the City, as the owner and operator, retains the available balance for itself.

Ms. Kumar, compared the tables on the presentation/report for each municipality, explained the Monthly Annual Average Daily Flow (AADF) as a percentage of the Monthly AADF allocation; peak hour flow surcharge, average daily flow surcharge; and summarized the user charge and surcharge billing, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Costs, replacement costs, etc. Ms. Kumar said Port Everglades is billed as a retail, which is incorporated in Fort Lauderdale's retail customer billing. Ms. Kumar mentioned the dollar impact of Fort Lauderdale billing itself for surcharge would be approximately 22%, based on their estimates.

Ms. Kumar said another scope of work item was to compare the large user agreements with other service providers (Hollywood, Broward, Miami Dade, etc.) as far as surcharge, monthly user charge, daily flow exceedance charge / surcharge. The agreements have similar terms with one difference being that City of Hollywood and Broward apply an Extra Strength Surcharge (higher pollutant concentrations in the wastewater).

Ms. Kumar said the key findings were: the monthly user charge recovery structure was clear and fair; the surcharge was not defined to recover any specific Regional system costs, the ADF was determined based on a 36-month average and the participants may need to

consider: a shorter timeframe to capture I&I improvements, how the surcharge dollars are allocated, a more defined process for the Large Users to request capacity allocation, establishing a reasonable timeframe for the true-up process, online access to data / dashboard video conferencing for quarterly meetings; a clear definition of “record examined” as referenced in the Large User Agreement, and applying a flat 25% surcharge for each PHF (Peak Hour Flow) and ADF (Average Daily Flow) surcharges.

Mr. Dodd read the requirements of Task 3 from the original Task Order and questioned whether the capacity allocations are correct for future planning. Ms. Kumar noted that future capacity projections were received only from the City of Oakland Park. Mr. Dodd clarified Wilton Manors did submit their analysis.

Discussion continued on future capacity projections and the need to submit all reports to B&V via Mr. Hillberg, the desire to modify current agreements – particularly Section 3.4 of the Large User Agreement, any recommendations City will provide going forward, the requirement to provide adequate time to review report/further clarification, discussions with policy makers and then adoptions of any changes, expected timeline by the next quarterly meeting; based on the Consultant, how does City pay allocation if no regional funds exists, City of Fort Lauderdale capacity, City of Oakland Park agreement not reflecting the correct projected flows, allocation of surcharge funds being used to reduce I&I, the letter dated July 22, 2025 from Cities of Oakland Park and Wilton Manors that was included as part of the final Draft report, other utilities billing itself for surcharges which were not publicly available, and developing a schedule to move the process forward.

Mr. Carbon requested all additional information be forwarded to Mr. Hillberg by October 6, 2025 to allow the Consultant sufficient time to complete the report and make recommendations and potentially draft an amendment to the agreements. Ms. Kumar mentioned the capacity allocation was not received from each Large User, to include Fort Lauderdale.

Discussion followed regarding City’s and Large Users’ future flow projections over the next 10 years; the need to allocate a buffer between the Plant’s capacity and projected future flows, controlling the I&I significantly to maintain capacity, population growth for each Large User, conversations about the surcharge mechanism, and flow projections to be submitted promptly for a quick turnaround on the report.

Mr. Abi-Karam said when the effort was undertaken in 2020 to finalize the agreements, a scientific process was followed for the figures, and the challenge lies with I&I due to age of plumbing and conditions of intracoastal cities. Mr. Hillberg will be main point of contact for communication to B&V for a final report, and a discussion about, if any, adoption of the recommendations listed in the report at the next Large Users Meeting. Mr. Abi-Karam said the City is currently negotiating an I&I Consent Order with FDEP, and is currently implementing an I&I program with an estimated budget of \$120M over the next five to seven years.

Consensus to have the next quarterly meeting with a finalized report from B&V.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. and will be hosted by the City of Oakland Park.

Adjournment

Mr. Abi-Karam moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.