



City of Carson

Report to Mayor and City Council

May 21, 2013
New Business Discussion

SUBJECT: CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES FOR CATCH BASIN CLEANING

Farrokh Abolfathi

Submitted by Farrokh Abolfathi
Acting Director of Public Works

David C. Biggs

Approved by David C. Biggs
City Manager

I. SUMMARY

This item is on the agenda at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Santarina.

There are approximately 2,000 catch basins within the City of Carson jurisdiction of which 10% are owned by the City, and the remainder are owned by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW).

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit requires all catch basins within our City (regardless of the owner) to be cleaned at least once during the dry season and in some cases once during the wet season as well. Currently, on an annual basis, the City issues two Service Requests to LACDPW to clean City-owned catch basins.

In the near future, this process will be complicated by the fact that the City must install and maintain debris excluders in all catch basins within the City regardless of who owns the catch basins in order to comply with the Machado Lake Trash Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

II. RECOMMENDATION

DISCUSS and PROVIDE direction.

III. ALTERNATIVES

1. Undertake formal evaluation by soliciting bids from private contractors and compare that with the LACDPW estimate for future consideration.
2. Take any action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

On February 27, 2008, the United States Environmental Protection Agency approved the Machado Lake Trash TMDL issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board by Resolution No. 2008-006. This document is accessible for view at the State Water Resources Control Board website: www.swrcb.ca.gov/. In order to comply with this TMDL, the City must install and maintain debris excluders called "full capture devices", also known as connector pipe screens (CPS), in all 196 catch basins within the City that drain

into Machado Lake. LACFCD owns 175 of the 196 catch basins within the City that are within the Machado Lake Watershed. To install any CPS in a LACFCD-owned catch basin, the City must first obtain a "Flood Permit", which includes a maintenance agreement. On December 18, 2012, the City Council approved a standard maintenance agreement with LACDPW for City-owned excluders on LACFCD-owned catch basins. The agreement specifies that the City will receive \$15.25 annually from LACDPW for each affected LACFCD-owned catch basin, and the City will be responsible for maintaining the devices and removing any accumulated trash by utilizing City crews and/or contracting out (including using the County's contractor). The \$15.25 reimbursement "represents the annual amount that LACDPW would otherwise have had to incur for removing trash and debris from the catch basins."

Furthermore, the recently adopted NPDES Permit also requires the City to prevent trash from entering the Dominguez Channel which can only be achieved by installing debris excluders in the remainder of the catch basins throughout the City.

Since the number of catch basins owned by the City is relatively small and they are scattered throughout the entire jurisdiction, it is cost effective to issue two Service Requests (SR)s on an annual basis, to LACDPW in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, requesting service for trash and debris removal from city-owned catch basins.

On May 6, 2013, the City submitted an SR for the 2013 dry-season catch basin cleaning of City-owned catch basins. The obvious benefit is convenience and the anticipated benefit is lower costs for larger quantities when bid with the County-owned catch basins.

However, when the debris excluders are installed and the City becomes responsible for removing trash from LACFCD-owned catch basins as well as the City-owned catch basins, the City may want to consider contracting for these catch basin cleaning services, noting that it could require additional permits and/or inspection fees. To this end, the City could contract for the upcoming wet-season cleaning of City-owned catch basins and compare that cost to the LACDPW dry-season cleaning costs since there should be no difference in the amount of trash as long as there is at least 6 months between the cleanings.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None

VI. EXHIBITS

None

Prepared by: Massoud Ghiam, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer and Patricia E. Elkins, Storm Water Quality Programs Manager

TO: Rev09-04-2012

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

Action taken by City Council

Date _____ Action _____

ORDINANCES

SECOND READING/RECOMMENDATIONS

Description of Vote:

Maker/Second Ayes/Noes/Abstain/Absent

Legend:

JD: Dear

ES: Santarina

DH: Davis-Holmes

MG: Gipson

AR: Robles

ITEM NO.	ORD. NO.	TITLE	DISPOSITION
27	13-1517	AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEE'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON	Introduced: 4/16/13 Item No. 19 JD/MG 4/0/0/1 – ES