

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability and Resiliency Committee

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: September 25, 2019

SUBJECT: **DISCUSS THE STATUS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE ACTION ITEMS ASSOCIATED WITH ONGOING WATER QUALITY COORDINATION WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

At the July 17, 2019 City Commission meeting, Commissioner Mark Samuelian referred a discussion to the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee (SRC) on the status and implications of the action items associated with on-going water quality coordination with Miami-Dade County. An initial discussion was held at the July 19, 2019 SRC meeting.

BACKGROUND

Staff from the City Manager's Office, the Environment and Sustainability Department, and the Public Works Department have been holding monthly coordination meetings with Miami-Dade County Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) leadership since 2016. The purpose of these meetings is to increase communication between the two entities and allow county and city staff to proactively address potential issues through high-level coordination. One of the discussion items on the monthly meeting agendas relates to protecting and improving water quality.

The city reduces potential pollution through a combination of education and outreach, good housekeeping, as well as the use of cutting-edge technology and industry-vetted operational practices. The city's stormwater management program focuses heavily on preventing pollution at its source: people. It is easier and less expensive for each person to do their part by picking up after their pets, tossing trash into designated bins, and properly applying landscape maintenance chemicals than to capture and remove pollutants in larger concentrations from within the stormwater system. Nevertheless, the city plays an important role in protecting water quality and has a well-rounded strategy to remove pollutants outside and inside the stormwater system before they reach Biscayne Bay.

On Thursday, April 25, interdepartmental staff met with DERM leadership to discuss water quality and talk through the city's plans to improve upon our current efforts. The city began by highlighting the progress we have made over the last five years to improve water quality, including:

- In science, such as the voluntary launch of a municipal water quality sampling program
- In design, such as the modification of pumped outfall designs to include dissipator boxes that reduce discharge velocities from those approved in the city's first new generation pump stations;

- In operations, such as increasing stormwater system maintenance from once every three years to once every year;
- In policy, such as the citywide bans on polystyrene and plastic straws; and,
- In compliance, such as the creation of the city's environmental inspection programs to reduce sanitary sewer overflows and construction run-off.

During the meeting, DERM and city staff identified several action items to take our stormwater management program to the next level.

ANALYSIS

Following the April 25 meeting, City staff compiled a list of the 24 action items identified to facilitate tracking their progress. The 24 action items are divided into four types:

- **14 administrative** (i.e., providing copies of our standard operation procedures for stormwater system maintenance);
- **Five regulatory** (i.e., close out open permits that have completed construction);
- **Three education and outreach** (i.e., develop a flyer for homeowners that will have yard drains on their private property); and,
- **Two engineering** (i.e., evaluate options for enhanced stormwater treatment before discharge).

To date, 13 actions items have been completed, 8 are in progress and three have not been started, including one that requires DERM action. This action item is for DERM to provide the city with a list construction projects that are pending close-out of DERM permits. Per city records, these include the following:

- 72-inch 17 Street and Washington
- 19 Street Pump Station
- 25 Street Outfall
- 29 Street Seawall
- Brittany Bay Park Seawall – Phase I
- Miami Beach Botanical Garden Seawall
- Miami Beach Convention Center Renovation
- Normandy Shores Park Seawall
- Palm and Hibiscus Island Neighborhood Improvements
- 96-inch RCP Washington Avenue
- Sunset Harbour Neighborhood Improvements
- Sunset Islands 3 and 4 Neighborhood Improvements
- Venetian Islands Neighborhood Improvements
- Washington Avenue Pump Station and Seawall
- West Avenue Bridge

The city anticipates requesting DERM permits for the following projects in the next six months:

- Indian Creek Drive Roadway and Drainage
- Maurice Gibb Park Redesign
- West Avenue Neighborhood Improvements

In addition to the on-going water quality coordination, the city has also been working with DERM to bring three construction projects into compliance. These projects are listed on the following page along with their respective status.

| Status of Construction Projects Compliance | |
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| Project Name | Status |
| Cherokee Avenue Seawall | DERM approved corrective action proposal. Pending U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit to begin construction of corrective action (application submitted on May 31, 2019). |
| Indian Creek Drive Seawall | Pending modification of DERM Class I permit, South Florida Water Management District Environmental Resources Permit, and USACE permit to begin construction of corrective action. |
| Palm and Hibiscus Island Neighborhood Improvements | Pending issuance of DERM permit modification to resolve (modification package submitted on September 16, 2019). |

CONCLUSION

City staff will continue to work with DERM to close out permits as projects are completed; to address all open compliance issues; and to properly permit new upcoming projects. This report is presented to the members of the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee as a status update. Staff recommends concluding this item and directing staff to provide regular progress updates via LTCs.

SMT/ETC/ESW/RWC/MKW