



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Earle M. Chesley P.E., General Services Director

DATE: January 21, 2022

SUBJECT: ARPA Grant Authorization and Secondary Clarifier Project Appropriation

Recommendation

Accept this report authorizing the City Manager to complete application documents and accept approved grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant program administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). In addition, the Department requests the council appropriate the sum of \$3,800,000 including \$3,040,000 from the issuance of bonds and notes and the acceptance of \$760,000 in ARPA grant funding for the replacement of three secondary clarifiers at the Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Background

The General Services Department (the Department) has been working with the NHDES since the spring of 2021 to secure ARPA grant funding for capital improvement projects (CIP) at the Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). In November 2021, the Department was notified that the NHDES had reserved \$760,000 in grant funding for the replacement of three secondary clarifiers at the WWTP. The total cost of the secondary clarifier replacement project is approximately \$3,800,000 as estimated by the city's consulting engineer (Wright Pierce). The secondary clarifiers at the WWTP were originally installed in 1980 and have been in service on a continuous basis for the past 40+ years and have come to the end of their useful life. At present the WWTP has one secondary clarifier out of service due to a significant failure of the drive mechanism which beyond practical repair. The remaining two secondary clarifiers continue to operate at the plant however require significant maintenance to remain in service. The secondary clarifier replacement projects were originally scheduled in the CIP plan for the Wastewater Division in FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025 with one clarifier scheduled to be completed in each fiscal year. In order for the city to take full advantage of the ARPA grant funding being offered, the NHDES requires that the entire project be funded under a single appropriation. Due to the current condition of the existing equipment coupled with the ARPA grant funding opportunity the Department recommends that this project be moved forward for full funding by City Council.

Discussion

The Department has identified a significant need to make upgrades at the Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Plant as portions of this vital infrastructure continues to reach the end of its useful life. Through the NHDES ARPA grant program the city has an opportunity to make critical upgrades to the WWTP at a reduced overall cost to the city's rate payers. For the reasons stated above it is the Department's recommendation that the City Council accept this report and associated resolution.