



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#25-1031

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: January 6, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Consent Order between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regarding Assessment and Rehabilitation of the City's Water Distribution System and Authorize Payment of \$500 in Administrative Fees - (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Consent Order between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), OGC File No. 24-2464 and authorize payment of \$500 in administrative fees.

Background

Between September 2023 and April 2025, the City of Fort Lauderdale's water distribution system experienced several water main breaks that disrupted service and required emergency repairs. These incidents illustrated ongoing challenges related to the age and condition of the City's underground distribution infrastructure. After review, FDEP determined that the system was not maintained in good operating condition, as required under Rule 62-555.350(2), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). FDEP further concluded that portions of the distribution system require rehabilitation or replacement of the existing water mains.

The Consent Order addresses the City's water infrastructure with initiatives focusing 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.

On December 15, 2025, Letter to the Commission (LTC) No. 25-273 was issued to provide the City Commission with an update on the anticipated consent order. The LTC provided a summary of the City's water system and highlighted the potential consent order requirements.

The City's water distribution system comprises:

- 783 miles of watermains, ranging from 2" to 54" in diameter
- 14,603 valves and 6,384 hydrants
- 22.6 million gallons of water storage capacity across tanks
- 43 square miles of service area serving a population of 253,000
- 132 water sample stations for quality monitoring
- 63,825 water and irrigation meters
- 10 interconnects with Broward or Pompano

The City currently has approximately \$5 million in available funding for program management of the Water and Sewer Consent Order Projects. If additional funding becomes necessary, it will be requested as part of a future annual budget process.

The Consent Order requirements are:

1. Condition Assessment

- Scope of Work - The City shall engage a Florida-licensed professional engineer to assess all pipes six inches (6") and larger, storage facilities, valves, and pumps. The assessment must evaluate age, materials, maintenance/inspection history, corrosion, and remaining service life to prioritize repairs and preventive maintenance.
- Timeline - Must be completed within eighteen (18) months.

2. Condition Assessment Report

- Scope of Work - The City shall submit a signed and sealed report by a Florida-licensed engineer summarizing the findings from the Condition Assessment in Item 1 above. The report must identify areas most vulnerable to failure or contamination and include a Distribution Plan and Schedule outlining how and when those components will be repaired, rehabilitated, or replaced.
- Timeline – The City must complete the scope of work within twenty-one (21) months.

3. Asset Management and Maintenance Program

- Scope of Work - The City shall develop and implement an Asset Management and Maintenance Program for the drinking water distribution system to ensure it is properly maintained, regularly assessed, and strategically improved to minimize system failures and service disruptions.
- Timeline - The City must complete the scope of work within twenty-eight (28) months.

4. Infrastructure Management Tracking System

- Scope of Work - The City shall develop and 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.
- Timeline - The City must complete the scope of work within twenty-eight (28) months.

The City shall submit semiannual written progress reports to FDEP starting from the Consent Order's effective date and continue until all corrective actions are completed. All corrective actions required in the Consent Order shall be completed and in compliance with Rules 62-555.350, F.A.C. within three (3) years of the effective date.

The Consent Order has been negotiated between the FDEP and the City over the past several months. Violations of the Consent Order and its timelines may result in stipulated penalties of up to \$15,000 per day per violation as well as criminal penalties as provided for by Florida law.

The effective date will be set when both parties have signed the Consent Order.

Resource Impact

The Consent Order commits the City to an administrative fee in the amount of \$500 that is available in the FY 2026 operating budget in the account below. In addition, the agreement commits the City to fund and implement projects and professional services that will impact current and future budgets and Community Investment Plans. Funds necessary to execute contracts and/or task orders will be identified and secured as required by State statute prior to entering into agreements.

<i>Funds available as of December 9, 2025</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-450-7301-536-30-3199	Distribution and Collections Operations	Services & Materials/ Other Professional Services	\$250,000	\$244,162	\$500
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$500

Strategic Connections

This item is a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Infrastructure and Resilience initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area, Goal 3: Be a sustainable and resilient community

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Ready

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Sanitary Sewer, Water & Stormwater Element

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Letter to the Commission (LTC) No. 25-273

Exhibit 2 – Consent Order OGC File 24-2464

Exhibit 3 – Resolution

Prepared by: Ingrid Kindbom, Program Manager, Utility Services
Department

Department Director: Albert Carbon, Utility Services Department