



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
City Commission Agenda Memo  
CONFERENCE MEETING**

**#26-0375**

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

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** April 21, 2026

**TITLE:** Water and Wastewater Consent Orders Update and Inflow & Infiltration (I&I)  
Program Development – Utility Services Department (**Commission Districts  
1, 2, 3 and 4**)

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The purpose of this agenda item is to inform the City Commission of the status of the current and pending Water and Wastewater Consent Order deliverables with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Office of the General Council (OGC) and to provide an update on the Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) program.

**Water Consent Order**

On February 5, 2026, the City entered into Consent Order OGC File No. 24-2464 with FDEP following several water main breaks between September 2023 and April 2025. The Consent Order focuses on the City's water distribution system and addresses reliability challenges associated with aging infrastructure. On March 16, 2026, the City, via the Procurement Services Department, issued Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Event No. 594-1 seeking a qualified professional engineering consultant to conduct comprehensive system-wide assessments and support the implementation of asset management practices required for compliance with the consent order. The Consent Order establishes the following milestones:

- System-Wide Condition Assessment - Required completion date of July 2027;
- Certified Condition Assessment Report & Plan - Required completion date of October 2027; and
- Asset Management Program & Tracking System - Required completion date of May 2028.

The City is expected to be in full compliance with the Consent Order by February 2029.

**Wastewater Consent Order**

On September 29, 2017, the City entered into Consent Order OGC File No. 16-1487 with FDEP in response to sanitary sewer overflows.

On October 12, 2020, the Wastewater Consent Order was amended following several breaks on critical sewer transmission pipelines. The City has met key milestones and continues to make significant progress toward the completion of the capital improvements required under the Amended Consent Order. To date, the City has completed seventy-two (72) of seventy-six (76) milestones, with fifty-five (55) completed ahead of schedule.

The remaining four (4) milestones (as shown in the table below) include the installation of permanent emergency generators at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant (GTL WWTP), Phase II force main rehabilitation projects, and two (2) semiannual progress reports.

| <b>OGC File No. 16-1487 Remaining Milestones</b>  |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Milestone One (1)</b>  | <b>Required Completion Date</b>       |
| Install Permanent Emergency Generators at GTL WWTP  | May 2, 2026                           |
| <b><u>Description and Status</u></b><br>Four (4) backup generators for the effluent pumps have been installed. Electrical and control work is still in progress. A request was submitted to extend the deadline to December 31, 2026, due to delays and unforeseen site conditions at the GTL WWTP.   |                                       |
| <b>Milestone Two (2)</b>  | <b>Required Completion Date</b>       |
| Semiannual Report   | July 31, 2026                         |
| <b>Milestone Three (3)</b>  | <b>Required Completion Date</b>       |
| Semiannual Report   | January 31, 2027                      |
| <b>Milestone Four (4)</b>   | <b>Required Completion Date</b>       |
| Three (3) Phase II Force Main Rehabilitation Projects   | September 30, 2026<br>*March 22, 2027 |
| <b><u>Description and Status</u></b><br><br><b>1. NE 25 Avenue Twenty-Four Inch (24") Force Main – Project No. P12383 / NE 38 Street and NE 19 Street Forty-Two-Inch (42") Force Main – Project No. P12384</b><br><br><b>Requirement</b> – Rehabilitate or replace approximately 8,000 linear feet of forty-two-inch (42") ductile iron pipe force main along NE 38 Street and install approximately 2,500 linear feet of new twenty-four-inch (24") force main along NE 25 Avenue.<br><br><b>Status</b> – All of the new force main pipes have been installed. Pressure testing and work at the City's Repump B Station are currently in progress. Once pressure testing of the new pipe is finished, the new lines will be connected to the existing systems serving the City of Oakland Park and the City of Wilton Manors. The project remains on schedule and is expected to be completed by the deadline of September 30, 2026. |                                       |

## **2. SE 9 and SE 10 Avenue Forty-Eight to Fifty-Four-Inch (48”– 54”) Force Main to GTL WWTP**

**Requirement** – Rehabilitate or replace approximately 19,400 linear feet of existing forty-eight to fifty-four-inch (48” – 54”) force main along SE 9 and SE 10 Avenues leading to GTL WWTP.

**Status** – Rehabilitation of the force main is ninety percent (90%) complete. Pressure testing and additional new pipe installation still needs to be completed. The project experienced several delays and a time extension request to September 30, 2026 is being prepared.

## **3. Effluent Force Main from GTL WWTP to Injection Wells\***

**Requirement** – Rehabilitate or replace the prestressed concrete cylinder pipe effluent force main extending from the GTL WTPP to the deep injection wells.

**Status** – Installation and pressure testing of the sixty-inch (60”) force main is complete. Remaining work includes connecting to the deep injection wells and the GTL WWTP. The project is on schedule for completion by March 22, 2027.

As work progresses under the First Amended Consent Order, the City is also negotiating a Second Amended Consent Order with FDEP focused on Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) reduction and the evaluation of emergency disposal systems at GTL WWTP.

As part of these negotiations, the City will develop and implement a comprehensive, data-driven I&I program aimed at reducing excess flows in the wastewater system over a seven (7)-year period. The program is expected to include the following components:

- Preparation of an I&I Evaluation Plan within six (6) months of the effective date to prioritize basins, conduct field investigations, and establish measurable reduction targets;
- Completion of a system-wide, professional engineer-certified analysis to define maximum allowable dry- and wet-weather flows;
- Development of a phased Rehabilitation Plan to implement corrective actions based on risk and severity. These actions may include repairing manholes, eliminating illegal connections, and addressing defective infrastructure; and
- Incorporation of performance tracking, permitting, monitoring and data analytics, regular progress reporting, and a final report documenting achieved I&I reductions.

The City has already initiated I&I efforts that align with these anticipated requirements, and

significant progress has been made. Approximately \$30,000,000 is available in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget with an additional \$118 million budgeted over the next five (5) years through the City's Community Investment Plan (CIP). Upon completion of the Evaluation Plan and Rehabilitation Plan, the City will be able to determine whether additional funding is required.

City staff will continue coordinating closely with FDEP as negotiations on the Second Amended Wastewater Consent Order move toward finalization. Negotiations are expected to conclude by mid-2026, after which, the proposed Second Amended Consent Order will be presented to the City Commission for consideration.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a 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 and Resilience 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
- Goal 3: Develop and maintain an adequate water supply, treatment and distribution system, which meets the existing and projected needs of the service area in an efficient, economical, and environmentally sensitive manner.

### **Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Presentation

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