

## Report to Civic Works Committee

**To:** Chair and Members  
Civic Works Committee  
**From:** Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC  
Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Report on Emergency Repairs to Pumps at Wonderland  
Pumping Station  
**Date:** January 11, 2022

## Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure, the following report and source of financing **BE RECEIVED** with respect to emergency repairs to the Wonderland Pumping Station pumps that were undertaken without competitive procurement but in accordance with Section 14.2 of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy.

## Executive Summary

### Purpose

This report informs Council of emergency repairs to pumps from the Wonderland Pumping Station that were undertaken without a competitive procurement process.

### Context

The Wonderland Pumping Station is the City's second-largest pumping station, providing wastewater servicing to a large portion of south London. Typically, it operates with up to four pumps at a time, with a fifth on standby. In October, multiple concurrent pump failures led to a situation where only one pump was operational. Immediate repairs were required to avoid overflows or property damage.

## Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The emergency repairs undertaken support the Corporate Strategic Plan through Building a Sustainable City – Protect and enhance waterways, wetlands and natural areas.

## Analysis

### 1.0 Background Information

#### 1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

Civic Works Committee, May 11, 2021 – Contract Award – Dingman Creek Pumping Station Construction Tender T21-19

Civic Works Committee, May 9, 2017 – Single Source for Pump Replacement at the Wonderland Pumping Station

### 2.0 Discussion and Considerations

The Wonderland Pumping Station was built in 2009 to provide servicing to a large portion of south London, including the White Oaks area, Lambeth and industrial areas south of the Highway 401. It is the City's second-largest pumping station, with a firm rated capacity of over 550 litres per second. This station is also subject to high grit loads that contribute to increased pump wear.

Multiple pump failures in the fall of 2021 culminated in a situation where, of five total

pumps installed, only one was operational. This resulted in a significant loss of capacity and presented a high risk of overflow activity. City crews worked to retain flows at the Dingman Creek storage facility and keep flows below what the single pump was able to convey, but there was no standby capacity. A rental pump was sourced from Xylem to match the existing pumps and provide some relief, but that solution was still far short of providing the requisite service level.

One pump was sent to Xylem for repair, but the lead times from that vendor were very long. At the time of writing of this report, the cost or projected completion date for repair of that pump still has not been received. City staff then approached a local vendor, Nevtro, who was able to complete repairs that enabled the remaining three pumps to be returned to duty.

There is no contract in place with Nevtro, and no other vendors were approached to establish competitive pricing. However, staff had previously established that Nevtro is the only local vendor capable and willing to do this work on large submersible pumps, and the emergency nature of the situation warranted pursuit of the fastest return to service possible, so the repair work was authorized by City staff. Invoices have been received for this repair work, and the rates are found to be reasonable given the scope of work required.

The construction of the new facility at Dingman Creek Pumping Station that is currently underway will significantly reduce the grit load that contributes to accelerated pump wear at Wonderland Pumping Station. Therefore, it is expected that the likelihood of multiple concurrent pump failures in the future will be significantly reduced.

### **3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations**

Costs of this repair activity were paid from an existing capital account intended for repair and upgrade work at the City's wastewater pumping stations. The total paid to Nevtro for the repair of three pumps was \$67,650.59. Costs owing to Xylem are not yet established but are expected to be in line with those from Nevtro. Budget is available to cover these costs, so no further financial impacts are expected.

The severe impact to the operational capacity of Wonderland Pumping Station rendered this situation an emergency and necessitated quick action on the part of Wastewater Treatment Operations staff to avoid the need to overflow raw sewage to the environment. Section 14.2 of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy considers such a situation and enables staff to proceed as required to maintain operations through an emergency, with reporting to Council following the event. This report ensure compliance with Section 14.2 of the Policy.

## **Conclusion**

The failure of multiple pumps at the Wonderland Pumping Station necessitated emergency repairs that could not wait for a competitive procurement process. The repair work was completed by a local vendor familiar to the City, but with whom no service contract existed. This report informs Council of these actions that were undertaken in accordance with the emergency procurement provisions described in Section 14.2 of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy.

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**Submitted by:** Scott Mathers, MPA, P.Eng., Director, Water, Wastewater  
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Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure

**CC:** John Freeman, Manager III, Purchasing and Supply  
Steve Mollon, Manager I, Purchasing Operations