

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 7, 2023
TO: Environmental Services Commission
FROM: Nate Dickey, Utilities Wastewater Superintendent
SUBJECT: Wastewater SmartCovers

ACTION REQUIRED

No action by the Commission is required at this time. This is an informational briefing regarding Wastewater SmartCovers.

What are *SmartCovers*?

SmartCovers provide real-time remote wastewater system monitoring through a reliable satellite communications system. SmartCover units are installed on the underside of existing maintenance hole covers and can be moved to various locations as monitoring needs change.

Bellevue Utilities purchased this technology as a pilot program using the Innovation Funds Program to optimize the cleaning of wastewater assets, gain operational efficiency, and reduce backups and overflows while being good stewards of our ratepayers' dollars.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

Staff will provide a short informational presentation on SmartCovers, how they work, and how they make operations more efficient. By investing in Smart technology that can monitor water levels in real-time with improved access to wastewater systems, Bellevue Utilities reduces maintenance costs and becomes a more efficient, data-driven utility.

The informational presentation will include the following:

- Introduction to wastewater system cleaning frequencies (levels of service)
- Wastewater preventative maintenance ("jetting") strategy
- Understanding why establishing optimal cleaning frequencies is challenging
- New data-driven cleaning frequency analysis
- Pilot costs and return on investment (ROI)
- Potential future state of SmartCovers

POLICY ISSUES

None

FISCAL IMPACT

The deployment of SmartCovers was funded through the Innovation Fund as a pilot program. Funding for ongoing support and future installations of these devices will be addressed in the 2025-2026 budget development process.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

None