

DATE: October 20, 2022

TO: Environmental Services Commission

FROM: Don McQuilliams, Utilities O&M Operations Manager
John Sizemore, Utilities O&M Regulatory Compliance Supervisor

SUBJECT: Utilities Water Quality Compliance Programs – Outreach, Education and Enforcement

ACTION REQUIRED

No action is required. Staff will provide an informational briefing on Utilities water quality outreach/education and compliance programs.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

The Utilities Water Quality section is responsible for providing regulatory compliance outreach and education; and enforcement of code violations within several program areas related to storm and surface water, drinking water, and wastewater. To date, voluntary compliance through education and outreach efforts has been effective with minimal use of the escalating enforcement process.

The timing of this briefing coincides with the upcoming Source Control Program as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The permit calls for the City to implement a progressive enforcement policy for Source Control no later than January 1, 2023.

On November 3, staff will provide background on the regulatory compliance programs along with an update on our education and outreach efforts and outline a standard process for when escalating enforcement will be used.

POLICY ISSUES

The Water, Wastewater and Storm & Surface Water Codes all include language that speaks to enforcement of the code provisions and applicability and compliance with other laws. All three Utilities codes refer to Bellevue City Code (BCC) 1.18.075 (Enforcement procedures for violation of Chapters 24.02, 24.04, 24.06 and 23.76 BCC) for associated enforcement procedures and penalties.

Existing code allows for escalating enforcement. Utilities has developed a standard procedure for implementation of escalating enforcement for the following Water Quality Program areas:

1. Storm & Surface Water
 - Private drainage inspection
 - Illicit discharge detection & elimination
 - Source control
2. Drinking Water
 - Cross connection control & abatement
 - Backflow assembly testing

3. Wastewater

- Fats, oils & grease pre-treatment & cleaning
- Illicit connection and/or unauthorized discharge

FISCAL IMPACT

Minimal fiscal impacts are anticipated with the escalating enforcement process. As mentioned above, we expect these to be rare in occurrence and will result in minimal increase in staff time or outside costs.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

None