

# Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority

One Highland Avenue • Monmouth Beach, New Jersey 07750

(732) 229-8578 • Fax (732) 870-1442

<http://trwra.org>

Fair Haven  
Little Silver  
Monmouth Beach

Oceanport  
Shrewsbury  
West Long Branch

**TO:** The Mayors of Eatontown, Fair Haven, Little Silver, Monmouth Beach, Oceanport, Red Bank, Rumson, Sea Bright, Shrewsbury Borough, Shrewsbury Township, Tinton Falls, West Long Branch, Eatontown Sewerage Authority

**FROM:** Michael A. Gianforte, P.E., Executive Director

**DATE:** June 10, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Community Update – June 2022

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Several of The Authority's personnel have tested positive for Covid-19 over the past few weeks. The office remains closed to bill paying customers. The Board continues to meet in person with the option to be remote.

## **SEWER WORKER / CONFINED SPACE RESCUE**

In response to the tragic death of a worker from the Township of Middletown Sewerage Authority, on their Plant site, the Authority is taking steps to reinforce the safety of our employees. In addition to our monthly safety meetings and our toolbox talks, we conducted a company-wide confined space basics refresher meeting. Our Safety Coordinator, Sharon Ham, is assembling a Teams Meeting with the Asbury Park Fire Confined Space Rescue Team and is requesting a representative from each Member and Customer Community OEM. We continue hosting the Asbury Park Fire Department for drills on our facilities regularly to familiarize their teams with our facilities.

## **THE ENERGY AGGREGATION BID REJECTION AND THE IMPACT ON RATES**

The Energy Aggregation Group rejected all bids because none hit the trigger price. The Group will leave the bidding process open for 4 months, and if the market improves, the group will refresh the prices. We are on the tariff rate until we receive a successful bid. Since the last bid, the market has become even more volatile.

We anticipate paying 50% more for the same electric usage compared to last year.

## **COMMODITY BIDS AND THE IMPACT ON RATES**

Bids received by other Authorities for commodities we use have increased up to **120%** compared to expiring contracts. This will inevitably affect the cost of service for the Authority.



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### **MAIN PUMP STATION – FUNDING 20 MILLION**

The Authority has been in discussions with the Governor's office regarding receiving a **20-million-dollar Grant** from FEMA COVID funds. If approved by FEMA, the COVID Grant will be utilized in addition to the **9-million-dollar Sandy FEMA Grant**, and the remaining portion of the **11.5-million-dollar** Engineering Litigation proceeds to help fund the project.

There is expected to be an additional **1-million-dollar Grant** to cover Authority administrative expenses during the project.

The Governor's press event has been delayed indefinitely while waiting for FEMA's review process.

### **CONNECTION FEE HEARING**

On April 12, 2022, pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40:14A-8, the Connection Fee is now Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$5,780.00) per equivalent dwelling unit in Member Communities.

### **SLUDGE REMOVAL**

The Authority has only three sites that accept cake sludge and has recently experienced cases where all three locations were shut down or otherwise unavailable. The alternatives have been extremely limited since the Title 5 Air Regulations were updated and many incinerators in the state have shut down permanently. PS&S is working with the Authority to evaluate the options for disposal of sludge.

### **FAIR HAVEN BEACH**

The Authority's staff met with contractors that perform annual maintenance dredging of sand, to determine if they are a viable source of sand to place on top of an exposed Authority sewer main on the beach. Fair Haven Yacht Works dredging contractor has secured NJDEP approval to allow the sand dredged in the area to be placed on our pipe at no cost to the Authority.

### **FORT MONMOUTH PHASE ONE**

The 6.5-million-dollar contract was awarded to Earle Asphalt Company to construct the East Interceptor, Regional Pump Station and Force Main all funded through Fort Monmouth at no cost to Member or Customer Towns.

### **FORT MONMOUTH PHASE TWO**

The Authority is working with FMERA to fund construction of additional gravity sewers in Oceanport Way and Barker's Circle.



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