

are usually held at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive on the second

Monday of each month at 1 p.m. See [www.woodmoorwater.com](http://www.woodmoorwater.com) or call 488-

2525 to verify meeting times.

James Howald can be reached at [jameshowald@ocn.me](mailto:jameshowald@ocn.me).

Palmer Lake Sanitation District, May 8

# Phase I sanitary sewer upgrades approved; up to 77 taps could be issued

By Lisa Hatfield

On May 8, the Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD) board voted to proceed with design work on Phase I of the sewer outfall line project to increase the flow capacity of certain collection lines that are nearing their limit. This will allow as many as 77 new sewer taps to be connected to PLSD's collection system before the suspension would be renewed. The board also discussed a follow-on Phase II project, which the engineers recommend would start soon to allow further sewer taps to be issued in the next 30 years.

PLSD put a suspension on issuing new sewer taps in October after District Manager Becky Orcutt had concerns that the district was growing so much. GMS Engineering investigated collection capacity in a study that was completed in April. See [www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#plsd](http://www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#plsd).

At its April 10 meeting, Dave Frisch and Dannah Koeniger from GMS Engineering presented the draft PLSD sanitary sewer line infrastructure capacity study, and in May, Frisch answered more questions about Phase I, which is a stopgap measure that will allow PLSD to issue sewer taps, briefly, at least. This work will allow an estimated 77 single-family equivalent (SFE) taps to be issued before another suspension would have to happen.

The system-wide engineering study indicated that for Phase I, three segments of the sewer outfall line need improvements: two sections near Mount Herman Road and one west of Cloven Hoof Drive, for a total cost of about \$349,900. PLSD has the capital to pay for this project already. Since the repairs needed are in protected Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat, work cannot begin until U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and El Paso County grant permission. Work could be com-

pleted this summer "if that all goes well," Frisch summarized.

Frisch emphasized that PLSD is "not at the point of overflowing the sewer, even with Lake of Rockies" construction going on. "What you are doing is being proactive and taking care of the problems," he said. He said it is time to take action though, and doing Phase I is vital, since those three sections of pipe are approaching 92 percent capacity otherwise.

"Those 77 taps will go fairly quickly. In two years, you will be in a tight spot again unless the Phase II process is started," including getting government permission to work in additional mouse habitat. If PLSD moves forward with Phase II soon, it could conceivably be completed by the end of 2021.

Phase II would accommodate anticipated growth in PLSD for the next 30 years, or an estimated 600 SFE taps. It would cost about \$2.2 million to upgrade 7,600 feet of outfall line to 18-inch PVC pipe, add 28 new 5-foot manholes, modify 14 manholes, and do wetlands mitigation. Frisch suggested the board decide soon about moving ahead with Phase II, since it takes time to get affordable loans approved. Customers would see a service fee increase to pay for that project whenever it is approved by the board.

The PLSD board authorized Frisch to deliver the final version of the \$60,000 system-wide study to DOLA (Department of Local Affairs), which gave a partial grant toward the cost of the study. And they authorized GMS to begin the design for Phase I so that repair work can begin as soon as they get the authorized construction timeline based on the environmental report.

Several local builders who have been losing business due to the suspension of tap issuance attended the meeting. Kurt Ehrhardt said he had

bought lots to build on, but when he could not get sewer taps issued, he could not build those homes to sell.

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Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. at PLSD's offices at 120 Middle Glen-

way, Palmer Lake. The next meeting is scheduled for June 12. Contact PLSD at 481-2732 or [Becky.orcutt@plsd.org](mailto:Becky.orcutt@plsd.org) with questions.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).

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