

## CSO Questions

1. Are rate increases equal across residential, commercial and industry?

A comprehensive rate study was performed in 2005-2006 by the consulting firm Integrated Utilities Group. In this study, the revenue requirements for anticipated expenditures for the period from 2007 –2010 were first determined. This review indicated a need to increase overall revenues by 9% each year through 2010. The next step of the study involved a detailed review of the costs associated with delivering service to the various wastewater customers served by the system. This study phase resulted in a realignment of rate schedule. In 2007, rates will change by varying amounts to make the user fees consistent with the cost of service. In years 2008-2010, fees will increase across-the-board to reflect the needed 9% annual increases.

2. How will short-term projects be paid for?

Within the City's Capital Improvement Plan and the sewer rate model, funding has been allocated for implementation of short-term CSO control projects. Funding of these projects will be through user fees from all system users, not just those residing in the CSO areas.

3. Will **all** sewer back-up problems be solved?

Elimination of sewer backups into basements has been historically the highest of the City's CSO control priorities. Efforts to address all known backups that are due to sewer deficiencies will continue with the comprehensive CSO control program.

4. Since NoDo is being developed now, what sewer solution is being considered?

The City has accelerated the CSO control alternative evaluation for the basin including North Downtown area. Designs for extension of the Webster and Nicholas storm sewer are being studied and opportunities for detention of stormwater are being included with each potential redevelopment project.

5. Is there a completed sewer plan for the Ak-Sar-Ben Village project?

Preliminary plans are in place to provide additional storm sewer capacity that will accommodate future separation of the basins, which drain through this project area.

6. Can we have meetings held in a location with closer parking? There have been many complaints from people.

We apologize for any inconveniences due to parking for Workshop #1. Future workshops will be held at more convenient locations.

7. How will CSO integrate with environmental issues – superfund site?

While the CSO control program will require coordination with the superfund site and a variety of other environmental, redevelopment, and utility issues, the CSO program is not expected to cause significant complications to the residential lead clean-up program

8. Where is the news conference?

We have planned the Workshops for the benefit of the Basin Advisory Panel members and the Community Basin Panel members. They are working meetings, and the media will be briefed separately and involved at key points in the process.

9. S.O.N.A. involvement?

The City intends to continue to work closely with the Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha, the Neighborhood Alliances (like SONA) and individual Neighborhood Associations to ensure residents have a meaningful voice in the CSO planning process and remain updated on the status of the program.

10. Why do we want this program?

The federal mandates require Omaha to develop and implement a program to control sewer overflows. The City is looking to take advantage of the opportunities presented by this mandate to provide multiple benefits desired by the ratepayers who will fund the program.

11. What is the state and federal government funding?

While some limited funding for the program may be available in the form of state or federal grants or loans, the CSO control program falls in the category of an “unfunded federal mandate.” It is currently anticipated ~~that~~ the program will be funded primarily through fees paid by all users of the Omaha regional treatment system.

12. Why should surrounding communities pay? Is it legal?

The CSO control program is a federal mandate aimed at improving water quality for all residents in the region. Wastewater from all system users currently contributes to the water quality impacts, and it is consistent with prevailing environmental law to recover costs across all customer classifications for system improvements.

13. Will there be bilingual speakers? Materials?

Program materials will be provided in Spanish and other language accommodations will be addressed as needed to ensure effective communication with community stakeholders.

14. What will be the anticipated sewer use fee at the conclusion of the project?

The ultimate sewer use fees necessary to implement the control plan cannot be determined until a plan is completed and approved by the regulatory bodies. Omaha’s current rates for a typical

residential customer (about \$10/month) are among the lowest in the nation. Even with the increases scheduled through 2010, Omaha's rates should not place it at a competitive disadvantage with comparable sized communities.

However, sewer use fees may rise significantly as we implement the approved CSO control plan. Based on the experience in other CSO communities, Omaha's cost will likely be between \$500 million and \$3 billion. If, for example, the implementation plan required a total expenditure of \$1.5B over 15 years, the monthly costs for a typical household could reach \$30 to \$50 within ten years.