



City and Borough of Sitka

PROVIDING FOR TODAY...PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

Coast Guard City, USA

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

Thru: John Leach, Municipal Administrator

From: Michael Harmon, P.E.

Date: May 27, 2021

Subject: Brady Emergency Force Main Repair

Background

Emergency Force Main Break Background:

At approximately 4:30 pm on April 22, 2021 the Brady Lift Station contractor notified Public Works that they noticed sewer flowing under the rip rap and onto the beach. The pumps have been cycling an average of 95 times a day and it is estimated that approximately 11,000 gallons of sewage was discharged onto the beach from the time the leak was reported until a temporary bypass was in place. No visible solids or debris was seen at or around the discharge location.

Public Works notified the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) of the event via telephone and a follow-up with written reports on 4/22/2021. The site was blocked off with orange safety fencing and "Keep Out" signs were posted. A PSA was posted to the CBS website, Facebook, and radio stations. Adjacent property owners were notified of the leak. The Army Corp of Engineers have been notified and will allow the emergency repair to take place under a streamlined Nationwide Permit. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will be issuing a fish habitat permit due to the bypass piping running through an anadromous stream.

Sewage was routed through a temporary bypass beginning at 7:00 pm on 4/26/2021. The sewage continues to be pumped through the temporary bypass pipe via trailer mounted pumps at this time. Public Works is monitoring the bypass pumping operation to determine if pumping will continue in this fashion until the Brady lift station construction project (see more below) commences in mid-September or if the leak repair will be performed sooner, in advance of the project.

Brady Lift Station Project Background:

All of the Sewage from the HPR side of town flows to the Brady Lift Station which is located on the water's edge in the True Value parking lot. It is pumped over to the Thomsen Harbor Lift Station via a 14-inch ductile iron pipe that is buried in the tidelands. It is then pumped into pipes that run under the channel and over to the wastewater treatment plant. The Brady Lift Station has been in service since the 1980s and is aging and failing. A replacement project is scheduled to commence in September 2021. The Brady Lift Station needs to be bypassed during construction in order for the contractor to perform the work. Even though the construction is not scheduled to begin until September, it was decided to construct the bypass piping in April in the event that a catastrophic failure of the lift station occurs between April and September. The CBS does not have an access easement to the lift station. The only way to get to it is through the True Value parking lot and/or by using the adjacent property owner's snow road. Temporary construction easements were obtained for the construction of the new lift station. The easements allow the contractor to perform the work between September and December.

Analysis

CBS directed the contractor on the Brady Lift Station project to excavate the existing force main to determine the location of the leak and the condition of the force main. This excavation revealed that the force main pipe is in good condition and the leak appears to be originating within the piping/fittings adjacent to the existing lift station.

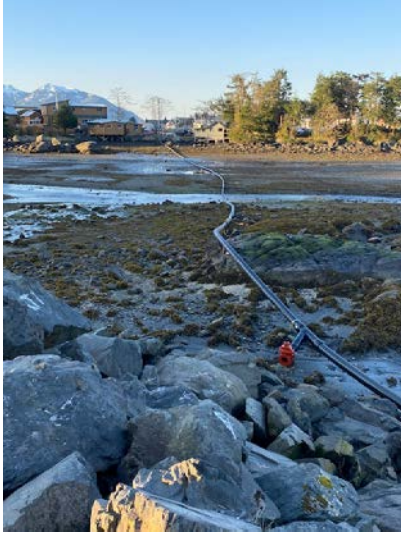
The estimated maximum cost of the leak repair is \$80,000 and includes labor, materials, design and project management. Making the repair during the Brady Lift Station project versus doing it now is anticipated to save the CBS money, but repairs may be needed sooner based on inefficiencies and risks associated with bypass pumping. Public Works has included this additional cost in the budget in the event bypass pumping becomes unsustainable and the repair cannot be delayed.



The leak is surfacing under the rip rap near the caution tape



Safety fencing blocking the area



Bypass piping in place



Bypass pump with piping

Fiscal Note

The Brady Lift Station project (#90676) does not have enough funding to cover the cost of the leak repair at this time. However, the Wastewater operating budget sets aside funding every year for unanticipated repair needs. Public Works proposes to transfer \$80,000 from the Unanticipated Wastewater Operating appropriation to fund the appropriation for the Brady Emergency Force Main Repair project (#90936).

As of May 18, 2021, the Unanticipated Repairs line item in the Wastewater operating budget had unspent appropriations of \$151,000. The appropriation proposed would lower the operating appropriation and increase the capital appropriation. While the funds were budgeted for a purpose such as this emergency repair, the CBS Charter limits moving funds from operating to fixed assets/capital projects. Due to the size and nature of the repair, this one needs to be classified as a capital project.

Recommendation

Approve Ordinance 2021-13 To lower the operating appropriation for Unanticipated Repairs by \$80,000 and increase the appropriation for the Brady Emergency Force Main Repair by \$80,000 to address the emergency repair for the leak at the Brady Lift Station.