

Committee Report

Environment Committee



Committee meeting date: April 28, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: May 13, 2026

Business Item: 2026-83

Declaration of Emergency Repair of Interceptor 1-MH-401C Lilydale Siphon

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council ratify a modified Emergency Declaration for repairs to Interceptor 1-MH-401C Lilydale Siphon in Saint Paul to add \$3,000,000 for additional emergency work for a total not to exceed amount of \$10,000,000.

Summary of Environment Committee discussion/questions

Staff and council members discussed what additional funds would cover under the emergency declaration to repair interceptor 1-MH-401C. They also discussed the configuration and logistics of the pipes.

Motion by CM Jenkins, seconded by CM Morales. Motion carried.



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Declaration of Emergency Repair of Interceptor 1-MH-401C Lilydale Siphon

District(s), Member(s):	District 14, W. Toni Carter
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy FM 14-2, Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services and Real Estate
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Jeff Schwarz, Minneapolis Area Program Manager, 651-325-6378
Division/Department:	Environmental Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council ratify a modified Emergency Declaration for repairs to Interceptor 1-MH-401C Lilydale Siphon in Saint Paul to add \$3,000,000 for additional emergency work for a total not to exceed amount of \$10,000,000.

Background

The 1-MH-401 system and consists of three siphon pipes, 16" (A), 12" (B), and 20" (C) in diameter. A sewage spill in Crosby Farm Regional Park from a break in Siphon B was discovered in summer 2023. An Emergency Declaration was issued; the spill cleaned up; and repairs completed in spring 2024. In summer 2024, Siphon C stopped taking flow, indicating the pipe was blocked or compromised. In winter 2025, an electromagnetic survey indicated Siphon A was also blocked or compromised. Emergency Declaration for Repairs to Interceptor 1-MH-401C was ratified in February 2025 to repair Siphon C so it could convey flows while a capital project was implemented to rehabilitate the entire system. The segment of Siphon C north of the river was repaired in fall 2025. However, when the pipe was put back into service, an unforeseen, unrepairable breach was discovered under the river.

Currently Siphon B is serviceable, Siphon A is partially blocked and/or compromised, and Siphon C is breached under the river and inoperable. A new river crossing is needed. Land acquisition, geotechnical work, design, and construction of a new crossing will take 3 to 5 years. A temporary pumping system is required to convey wastewater over the I-35E bridge in the event the existing siphons experience further failures while the new river crossing is built. A modification to the Emergency Declaration is required to pay for installing the temporary conveyance system.

Rationale

Emergency Declarations exceeding \$175,000 require appropriate Committee and Council ratification.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive Outcome of Stewardship. Public financial resources will be invested efficiently and effectively to maintain and restore existing capacity to existing wastewater

infrastructure which protect the region's natural resources.

Funding

The estimated cost for the additional emergency work is \$3,000,000. This work will be funded out of the 2026 MCES Authorized Capital Program.

Small Business Inclusion

Due to the time-sensitive nature of the initial Emergency Declaration and the need for immediate work to be performed to protect public health and existing infrastructure, the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity did not establish a small business goal on the project.

