



**TO:** Hyun Kim, City Manager  
**FROM:** Joy Rodriguez, P.E., Principal Engineer, Planning and Development Services;  
John Sunich, Principal Regulatory Compliance Analyst;  
Ramiro Chavez, P.E., Director, Environmental Services;  
Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services  
**COPY:** Economic Development Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Grease Interceptor Improvement Project  
**DATE:** March 31, 2026

---

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**

Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

This presentation will overview recommendations from the Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) Continuous Improvement Project and detail current effort which includes update to the 2021 Side Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Availability Manual with emphasis on Grease Interceptor Sizing and Installation requirements.

**BACKGROUND:**

As a result of public concerns around Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) pre-treatment requirements for Food Services Establishments (FSEs), a Continuous Improvement (CI) team was formed. The Team evaluated the existing FOG program including design requirements, permitting processes, and pre-treatment devices currently in service. The goal was to identify areas for improvement that could address public concerns, improve FSE compliance, ensure the city's NPDES wastewater regulatory requirements, and reduce FOG-related impacts to the wastewater system.

**ISSUE:**

Evaluation of the FOG Program and review of public feedback highlighted a need to provide consistent design guidance to FSEs to reduce barriers to businesses ability to achieve compliance. The FOG CI project concluded with six recommendations: (1) improve interagency coordination with the health department, (2) evaluate the cost of compliance for FSEs to (3) guide an update to FOG device sizing requirements, (4) provide clear and consistent information through an update to the Side Sewer Manual, (5) enhance resources to FSEs, and (6) evaluate options for additional FSE-dedicated support.

Implementation of the recommended improvements began in mid-2025 by establishing regular coordination meetings with the health department. Current efforts are focused on the 2021 Side Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Availability Manual update with emphasis on analysis of GI costs to guide revisions to the GI sizing and installation section of Chapter 5. Publication of the updated manual, which will incorporate the sizing policy information, is anticipated for third quarter 2026. Action on the remaining CI recommendations – including tip sheets, website resources, and FSE support – will then be the primary project focus the remainder of the year.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an informational briefing only. No alternatives are being presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an informational briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an informational briefing only. No recommendation is being made.