

## **Appendix E**

### **Supplemental Environmental Project Plan**

This Appendix E describes the Supplemental Environmental Project (“SEP”) to be performed and funded by Miami-Dade as required by the Consent Decree. Miami-Dade shall install at least seven thousand six hundred sixty (7,660) linear feet of Gravity Sewer Mains within an industrial area which currently has no access to sanitary sewers and relies on septic systems. Disconnecting the industrial users from septic tanks and connecting them to the sewer system will improve water quality in the aquifer and nearby surface waters, and prevent future contamination. Miami-Dade County estimates that the SEP will cost two million forty seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$2,047,200.00), and commits to spend at least this amount to complete the SEP. No part of this SEP expenditure shall include federal or state funds, including federal or state low interest loans, contracts, or grants.

#### **SEP Overview:**

Miami-Dade has indentified an area in the County which is zoned business, commercial, and industrial, from light to heavy manufacturing where there currently is no access to sewers, and where septic systems are inadequate or failing and many businesses pre-date the current septic system regulations. The area is bounded on the West by Northwest 37<sup>th</sup> Ave, on the North by State Road 112, on the East by Northwest 27<sup>th</sup> Ave, and on the South by North River Drive, which is parallel to the Miami River. The Melrose Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area is within these boundaries. The area is a low-income and high-poverty area. The attached map shows the project area, the sewer lines that are proposed to serve the area, and the higher risk (County permitted) businesses that will gain access to sewers as a result of this project.

The SEP shall include the installation of at least seven thousand six hundred and sixty (7,660) linear feet of Gravity Sewer Mains within the area described above. The installation will also include public laterals up to the property line. Pursuant to existing regulations, businesses will have ninety (90) days to abandon their septic systems and connect to the public laterals.

The priority of the connections will be based on proximity to the existing Gravity Sewer Mains. As the Gravity Sewer Mains which will be constructed through this SEP are being constructed as extensions from existing Gravity Sewer Mains, the businesses that are located closer to the existing Gravity Sewer Mains will be able to connect first, as the extended Gravity Sewer Mains near them are completed. The sequencing of construction will be determined as part of the design process based upon field conditions and construction efficiency. However, within those constraints, highest priority will be assigned to the western-most system which will serve the largest number of facilities which predate, and do not meet, current septic tank regulations, thence moving progressively to the eastern systems. It is estimated that the Gravity Sewer Mains will service a minimum of seventy-four (74) existing businesses. Miami-Dade estimates that an estimated flow of seventeen thousand six hundred (17,600) gallons per day of wastewater will be removed from the existing septic tanks and will be treated at one of Miami-Dade's WWTPs instead.

Once Miami-Dade constructs the Gravity Sewer Mains, Miami-Dade will use existing authority to ensure that all developed lots in the affected area are connected to the new sewer extensions pursuant to sections 32-79, 32-80, and 24-43.1 (7) of the Code of Miami-Dade County.

## **SEP Budget**

Miami-Dade estimates that it will cost two million forty seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$2,047,200) to construct the proposed Gravity Sewer Mains. This amount includes the installation of gravity sewer lines and public laterals up to the property line, including project planning, design, permitting, procurement, construction cost, and construction management. The amount does not include the cost of installation of private laterals on the businesses' properties or the one-time connection fee, both of which are the private businesses' responsibility. Nor does it include the business' cost of abandoning the septic systems. Businesses which qualify for an exemption from water and sewer connection charges will be eligible to apply for a refund of connection charge. The exemption is available for commercial or industrial businesses which are located in a designated enterprise zone such as the targeted area, and which have a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of their employees residing in the enterprise zone, which has been identified as an environmental justice area. SEP funds shall not be used to pay connection charge refunds.

Eligible SEP costs are: planning, design, permitting, procurement, construction cost for the gravity lines and public laterals, and construction management. Construction management shall be limited to less than ten percent (10%) of the total budget. SEP funds shall not be used for Miami-Dade administrative expenses.

## **Project Processing:**

Miami-Dade will use a streamlined project approach to enhance implementation, while providing appropriate management oversight. The process shall include:

1. Miami-Dade will identify the facilities with the highest risk of causing contamination.

2. The goal of the system design will be to maximize sewer system access to the highest risk properties within the area with the available funding.
3. The project will include: designing the lines, obtaining permits, installing the gravity lines and public laterals, inspecting the gravity lines and public laterals, and providing construction management.
4. The design milestone for this project shall be completed within thirty-six (36) months of the Date of Entry of the Consent Decree. Substantial completion of project construction shall be completed within sixth (60) months of the Date of Entry.
5. The SEP Completion Report will include information showing that Miami-Dade has finished construction of the Gravity Sewer Mains and is taking appropriate actions, including enforcement activity, to ensure that the businesses in the affected areas abandon their septic systems and connect to the sewer system.