

Summary of Public Comments on Rockville's Draft Water Resources Element

September 29, 2010

The City has not received any external comments from residents, businesses or institutions (e.g., other government agencies, nonprofits, etc.)

The City staff is working on revisions reflecting internal comments and requests for clarifications. These may be summarized as follows:

Water Resources Element Issue Matrix
<p>1. The original draft identified the Rockville population served (for water and sewer) based on the number of customer accounts (connections) maintained by the City financial office. The current approach used for billing is to remove all multi-family and condominium connections from the residential category (limited to single family and townhouse communities) and instead include these units with the <i>nonresidential</i> category. The final draft will back these residential units out of the nonresidential category (thus lowering that number) and place them with other residential households.</p>
<p>2. Similarly, the Finance Office water and sewer account number frequently counts a multi-family apartment or condo building as a single connection even though there may be many individual residential units receiving water and sewer service in that building. Therefore, the use of the Finance number artificially reduces the actual number of <i>City served households</i>. To get a more accurate number of households receiving these services, we are researching the actual number of multi-family and condo units served by the City as well as those served by WSSC.</p>
<p>3. Once we have a more accurate number for the population served, the projected increased demand (and accompanying percentages) for water and sewer will likely need recalculation.</p>
<p>4. In July, Rockville experienced a major water break involving the large 24 inch transmission line from the water plant to the City's distribution system. We are working on revisions to Chapter Three that capture this serious event and its long-term consequences, including any adjustments to the City's CIP schedule for water line repair and replacement.</p>
<p>5. The original draft does not describe planned upgrades to the water plant itself in sufficient detail. We are adding this detail to the final draft.</p>

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6. The original draft did not account for *inflow and infiltration* (I&I) currently experienced in the City sewers. While this number has no relationship to increased population demands, WSSC bills the City for conveying and treating this water at Blue Plains. The final draft will add this I&I into the total volume of sewage and will note the steps the City is taking to reduce I&I over time.

7. The original draft omitted any mention of security surrounding the water treatment plant. The final draft will note that significant security measures have been taken to protect the plant and that tours must be arranged in advance through the City.