



MICHAEL S. YENNI

Mayor

CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 7, 2014

KENNER CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES \$15 MILLION SEWERAGE LOAN REQUEST

Kenner, LA. – The Kenner City Council approved a resolution Thursday night giving Mayor Michael Yenni the power to request a \$15 million low-interest loan from the state Department of Environmental Quality to pay for additional elements for the city’s sewerage system overhaul.

The 0.95 percent interest loan would be issued by the city and sold to the state Department of Environmental Quality. The city would issue bonds that would be purchased by the state DEQ. The money would pay for the replacement of a major force main in the city, the demolition of a pair of former wastewater treatment plants and a warehouse to house the city’s fleet of 25 emergency generators, which is expected to grow in the future, and is now exposed to the weather.

The city now has a pair of loans from the DEQ set to expire in 2016. The city has the money in place to handle the final two years of payments on the two bonds, Kenner Finance Director Duke McConnell said.

The anticipated future payments on a \$15 million loan at 0.95 percent interest would be about the same as the payments on the two expiring DEQ loans, both at 2.95 percent interest, McConnell said.

One of the treatment plants being demolished is on a canal behind the Chateau Estates golf course and the other is located in the city’s Public Works yard off Williams Boulevard near 21st Street, Kenner Chief Administrative Officer Mike Quigley said.

Kenner’s aging sewer system has been under a pair of compliance orders by the state DEQ for violations dating back to 2001. Leaks and cracks in sewer pipes allow for significant infiltration of water during rain storms, leading to sewage backups in some areas.

“We are optimistic that this loan will be approved,” Quigley said. “We have received nothing but positive feedback from state officials monitoring our progress.”

In February, Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni was praised by top DEQ officials for the progress made so far in the overhaul of the city’s sewerage system.

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