

**IMPACT STATEMENT**

**Legislation title:** Authorize a competitive solicitation and Price Agreements for Furnishing Sewer Improvements for Nonconforming Sewer Conversions, BES Project E08748 (Ordinance)

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**Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

BES is responsible for constructing new sanitary sewers to provide individual properties with improved and legal access to the collection system. This is referred to as completing a conversion of nonconforming sewers to conforming sewer connections. Existing nonconforming sewers generally occur when a property does not have a direct and independent connection to the public sewer. Sewer connections are nonconforming when the line crosses into a neighbor's property or connects to a private line in the right-of-way. Conforming sewers leave an individual property and directly connect to the public sewer. Nonconforming connections are typically found when a property is for sale or when adjacent property or public right of way is improved. When discovered, nonconforming sewers immediate conflicts with existing routes of service. New public sewers provided by BES are most often the only available permanent solution to avoid the loss of service that can render a property uninhabitable or business unable to continue its commercial activity.

BES will prepare and provide the design, plans, specifications, construction management, construction inspection, and final acceptance of the work. The Contractors will provide necessary labor, equipment, materials and related professional services to construct the sewer and all required restoration.

**Financial and budgetary impacts:**

The level of confidence in this contract estimate is high due to the nature of the price agreement contract. Funds are available in the Bureau of Environmental Services Sewer System Operating Fund, FY 2018 – FY 2019. After the project is completed, the assets will be maintained by BES Wastewater Group using their operation and maintenance budget. This project will neither generate nor reduce current or future revenue.

Property owners receiving a new conforming sewer connection route of service through this work are required to pay the applicable sewer conversion charge to BES prior to making the new connection. These conversion rates are subsidized by BES and full cost recovery is not achieved, which is in accordance with the Council direction and adoption of the nonconforming sewer program that began in 2008.

**Community impacts and community involvement:**

The success of BES construction projects relies, in part, on the Bureau's proactive and focused community outreach program. Community outreach is key to gaining public acceptance and understanding of Bureau projects in business districts and residential neighborhoods. Further, projects that provide opportunities for public input and decision-making are more likely to reflect community needs and address community concerns, resulting in better projects and enhanced relationships between the City and community. Inadequate or inappropriate communications and outreach to affected communities can create significant mistrust of the Bureau and City and potentially jeopardize the design, construction, and completion of Bureau projects. For the Bureau and City, negative media attention and concern by elected officials can also create a challenging environment.

The BES Public Involvement (PI) Section has a customer service-based approach to Non-Conforming Sewer outreach. The PI team uses a variety of communications and outreach methods to reach community members in affected areas, and also contacts individual community members directly to provide one-on-one support. The

