

July 13, 2018

John Glascock  
Deputy City Manager  
City of Columbia  
P. O. Box 6015  
Columbia, MO 65205-6015

RE: Columbia Wastewater and Stormwater Integrated Management Plan (IMP)  
Final Report  
Draft for Public Comment  
City of Columbia, MO  
June 1, 2018

Dear Mr. Glascock:

The purpose of this letter is to comment upon the “Residential Affordability and Socioeconomic Evaluation” and the “Wastewater Collection System Alternatives” in the above –referenced plan.

In regards to the “Residential Affordability and Socioeconomic Evaluation”, it appears that two classes of customers were neglected in this plan. They are:

1. City customers outside the City limits, for example, those people living in Georgetown subdivision; and
2. Boone County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD) customers.

From the IMP City rates are projected to reach \$69.15 per month by 2036 which is just below 2% of the Median Household Income (MHI). Current City ordinance is that City customers outside of the City limits pay a 50% surcharge on their sanitary sewer utility bill. Thus, these customers would be paying \$103.73 per month, which is well over 2% of the MHI.

Similarly, BCRSD customers are currently paying \$60.95 per month based upon a monthly water usage of 5,000 gallons of water per month. About 50% of the Sewer District’s 7,000 customers have their wastewater flow treated at the City’s Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The wholesale rate that the BCRSD pays to the City is a function of the City’s retail rate. Currently out of annual projected revenues of about \$4,600,000, the BCRSD pays to the City about \$1,024,000 for wholesale treatment and conveyance. As the City’s retail rate increases, the wholesale cost to the BCRSD will increase thus driving the BCRSD retail rate over 2% of MHI.

The vision statement for the IMP is a “... community – driven, affordable infrastructure plan ...” If two classes of customers have rates that are over 2% of MHI, then the IMP is not an affordable plan. A more affordable plan would be either the existing rate level or Level 1 as shown on page 22 of the IMP or something even more affordable than the existing rate level.

In regards to “Wastewater Collection System Alternatives”, it seems that establishing criteria for excessive inflow and infiltration may be helpful. The November 2004 Wastewater System Facilities Planning Report prepared by Black and Veatch established excessive I/I Criteria on page 5-10 of Chapter 5.0 “Collection System Evaluation”. Consideration should be given to establishing such criteria in the IMP.

I appreciated the opportunity to attend the community outreach meetings and I would appreciate your careful consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, require additional information or would like to meet to discuss this matter, please call me at 573-443-2765 or e-mail me at [tratermann@bcrsd.com](mailto:tratermann@bcrsd.com). Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,  
BOONE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT



Tom Ratermann  
General Manager

C: File  
Board of Trustees  
Tad Johnsen, City of Columbia by e-mail only  
Dave Sorrell, City of Columbia by e-mail only  
Erin Keys, City of Columbia by e-mail only