



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: City Utilities - Sewer/Stormwater

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 20, 2026

Re: Resolution to set a Public Hearing for the City of Columbia Phase 2 Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for Wastewater and Stormwater

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a resolution to set a public hearing on August 17, 2026, concerning the City of Columbia Phase 2 Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for Wastewater and Stormwater.

Discussion

The final document for the City of Columbia Phase 2 IMP for Wastewater and Stormwater is attached, which also includes results from a community engagement workshop. The workshop took place on August 21, 2024, during the open customer feedback period of May 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024, and these results are contained within the plan.

In 2011, the City received notification from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) of the potential need of an Administrative Order on Consent to resolve sanitary sewer overflows and certain discharge violations. The City negotiated with the MDNR and resolved the matter in a mutually agreeable way through the development and adoption of the Wastewater and Stormwater Integrated Management Plan. Overlapping statutory and policy mandates combined with anticipated regulatory changes for both sanitary sewer and storm water are the drivers for the development of the original IMP. In a December 2015 letter from the MDNR, it was confirmed that the integrated approach will be the foundation for the resolution to the potential administrative order and future permit renewals. In 2016, the City selected HDR Engineering, Inc., to assist with developing the IMP and ultimately implemented it in 2020.

In 2024, development began on the Phase 2 IMP by entering into a contract with HDR Engineering, Inc., for evaluating the progress of the original IMP and identifying future infrastructure and resource needs. Public outreach activities have occurred to support the Phase 2 IMP including an online survey, public workshops, multiple meetings with the MDNR, and a 152-day comment period on the draft Phase 2 IMP. The updated Phase 2 IMP will help the City meet regulatory obligations while continuing to address related challenges in operating and maintaining existing infrastructure investments. Finally, the Phase 2 IMP prioritizes investments for the Sewer and Storm Water Utilities. This Phase 2 IMP provides some control of the magnitude and timing of regulatory uncertainties and prioritizes sustainable and comprehensive investments that improve water quality and provide multiple benefits to

the community. For instance, the Phase 2 IMP proposes meeting the MDNR's new phosphorus limit of 1 milligram per liter in 2033 rather than the regulatory requirement of 2029. By an April 16, 2026 email from the MDNR, MDNR acknowledges this concept. Additionally, the Phase 2 IMP proposes a mussels present or absent study at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area to determine whether ammonia discharge limits are needed. Also, by the April 16, 2026 email, the MDNR acknowledges this concept prior to establishing ammonia limits in the operating permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

The City submitted the Phase 2 IMP for Wastewater and Stormwater, dated February 15, 2026 to the MDNR. The MDNR Water Protection Program reviewed the Phase 2 IMP and acknowledged receipt in the email dated April 16, 2026. The MDNR stated that it will consider the Phase 2 IMP and the information within it during regulatory decisions such as permitting, compliance and enforcement processes. Once approved by the Council, staff will use the Phase 2 IMP to negotiate the operating permit with the MDNR. The schedules outlined in the Phase 2 IMP should be incorporated into the regulatory requirements in the new operating permit.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: There is no cost to approve this plan. Implementation actions are brought for Council for approval with the Budget approval process or as a Capital Improvement Project depending on the action.

Long-Term Impact: By implementing a long-term plan, the City can maintain affordable user fees and more reasonably plan for future infrastructure and regulatory costs.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

Date	Action
03/18/2024	Authorizing an agreement for professional engineering services with HDR Engineering Inc. to update the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the City's sanitary sewer and storm water utilities.
02/01/2021	REP12-21 Wastewater and Stormwater Integrated Management Plan 5-Year Action Plan Annual Summary.

Date	Action
12/03/2018	R198-18 Adopting the Columbia Wastewater and Stormwater Integrated Management Plan Final Report.
11/05/2018	R166-18 Setting a public hearing: consider adoption of the Columbia Wastewater and Stormwater Integrated Management Plan Final Report.
08/07/2017	TMP-5384 City Council Work Session Presentation.
01/19/2016	B18-16 Authorizing an agreement for engineering services with HDR Engineering, Inc. for development of an Integrated Management Plan (IMP)

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution setting a public hearing. .