



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 23-005**

**Date:** January 12, 2023

**To:** Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

**From:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager

**Re:** George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant Permitting Capacity Limits

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Recent flow evaluations indicate that the George T. Lohmeyer (GTL) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) has reached County permitting capacity limit. This circumstance temporarily prevents the City from granting capacity letters to developments that require additional demand. It is important to note that the GTL WWTP is not currently operating beyond its capacity. While the permitted capacity includes peaking factors and other operational safety considerations, the GTL WWTP has a physical capacity to treat up to 93.5 Million Gallons per Day (MGD).

### PERMITTING CAPACITY

The GTL WWTP is permitted to operate by both the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Broward County. The FDEP permit provides a permitted capacity of 56.6 Million Gallons per Day (MGD), calculated based on a Three-Month Average Daily Flow (TMADF), while the Broward County's Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department's (EPGMD) permitted capacity is 48 MGD based on a twelve-month Annual Average Daily Flow (AADF).

As of January 2023, the Three-Month Average Daily Flow (TMADF) at GTL is 48.5 MGD, while the Annual Average Daily Flow (AADF) to the plant is 43.6 MGD. An additional flow of 4.436 MGD has already been committed through the DRC process for previously approved projects, which is combined with the TMADF and AADF to determine the total projected flow for the City (52.936 MGD based on the TMADF and 48.036 MGD based on the AADF). Because the projected flow of 48.036 MGD AADF exceeds the Broward County permitted capacity of 48 MGD, the City is unable to commit further allocations, for the moment.

### SEASONAL IMPACT

Variations of an active rainfall season and King Tides influence the daily flows the GTL WWTP experiences. The 2017 Comprehensive Utility Strategic Master Plan estimated that approximately 21 MGD of daily flows received at GTL are related to Inflow and

Infiltration (I&I). The same plan recommended for continued investment in I&I reduction projects to address capacity concerns.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will continue issuing capacity letters once we are able to achieve lesser flows at the plant. Staff expects that conditions improve at the end of January, as we experience less rainfall and transition into dry months.

Concurrently, staff is also working with a vendor to determine how we may improve the permitting capacity with Broward County. Staff has also engaged a consultant to evaluate the plan and determine opportunities for increasing plant capacity through improved process components and systems upgrades.

Additional efforts are underway to increase I&I investments, review existing policies for allocation, and analyze use of large user agreements. Staff will provide an update and a more detailed discussion at the next City Commission Conference meeting on January 24.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager  
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager  
D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
Department Directors  
CMO Managers