



**COMMISSION FILE NO:** 26-064-5 **DATE INTRODUCED:** May 4, 2026

**INTRODUCED BY:** Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

**REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO:** Operations Committee

**RELATING TO:** Approve Changes in Total Project Cost for Project J06073, Harbor Siphons Area Settlement Mitigation

**SUMMARY:**

The Commission is requested to increase the total project cost (TPC) for Project J06073, Harbor Siphons Area Settlement Mitigation, by \$500,000 for an amended TPC of \$1,032,400 and to make a corresponding change to the TPC of Project M99001, Allowance for Cost and Schedule Changes.

Harbor siphons consist of eight large diameter sewers (48-inch to 96-inch) that convey raw wastewater beneath the Kinnickinnic and Milwaukee Rivers to two riser shafts at the Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility (JIWRF). From the two riser shafts, each sewer goes to one of two structures at JIWRF: the High-Level Flow Control Structure and the Low-Level Flow Control Structure. These two structures control and direct wastewater to the Preliminary Treatment Facility, where the raw wastewater then begins to be treated. This siphon system began service in 2012.

In 2021, the District completed installation of micro pile-supported superstructures on both flow control structures to address long-term settlement identified in 2018. Since then, staff have conducted quarterly settlement monitoring and observed continued movement, consistent with expectations for these structures. The District’s contracted engineer has not yet determined whether the total settlement exceeds anticipated performance.

**ATTACHMENTS:** **BACKGROUND**  **KEY ISSUES**  **RESOLUTION**   
**FISCAL NOTE**  **SBE**  **OTHER**  \_\_\_\_\_

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**COMMITTEE ACTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMISSION ACTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **SUMMARY (Cont'd)**

### **Approve Changes in Total Project Cost for Project J06073, Harbor Siphon Area Settlement Mitigation**

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In February 2026, District staff identified cracked welds on the superstructure supporting the Low-Level Flow Control Structure at JIWRP. Inspection confirmed multiple weld failures, likely caused by ongoing settlement in the Harbor Siphons area. The Executive Director issued an emergency declaration on March 2, and staff have developed a repair approach with an engineering firm and contractor. This work is being charged to Project J06073, Harbor Siphons Area Settlement Mitigation.

On April 16, staff observed water bubbling to the ground surface adjacent to the High-Level Flow Control Structure. Testing confirmed bacteria levels consistent with raw wastewater. The bubbling subsided after high flows into JIWRP decreased. Staff subsequently mobilized a contractor to excavate the area adjacent to the structure to identify the source of the water. This work is also being charged to Project J06073 due to its likely connection to Harbor Siphons settlement conditions.

The rehabilitation approach for the broken welds is defined; however, associated costs are not yet estimated. In addition, the extent of repairs required for the leaking harbor siphon piping remains unknown at this time. Due to these uncertainties, staff cannot determine a reliable updated TPC for J06073. The requested TPC increase provides sufficient funding to proceed with necessary investigations and possible repairs and maintain continuity of work through the next capital budget approval in October. Staff will refine costs as additional information becomes available.

## RESOLUTION

Approve Changes in Total Project Cost for Project J06073, Harbor Siphon Area  
Settlement Mitigation

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**RESOLVED**, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the total project cost for Project J06073, Harbor Siphon Area Settlement Mitigation, is increased by \$500,000 for an amended total project cost of \$1,032,400, and that a corresponding change is made to the total project cost for Project M99001, Allowance for Cost and Schedule Changes.