



TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: October 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6A: Discussion of the Presentation to be Provided at the PML Lake Lodge at 10:00 AM on October 23, 2021, Regarding GCSB Actions to Address Sewer Odor

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The purpose of this agenda item is to review the presentation planned to be provided publicly in Pine Mountain lake on the 23rd of October. No action required.

BACKGROUND:

The process of wastewater collection and treatment produces a variety of gases and odors due to the natural biological decomposition of the organic wastes that occur with the sewage as it travels through pipes, manholes, lift stations and in open basins at the wastewater treatment plant. Sewer odors are produced by sewer gases as they off-gas to the atmosphere that may include hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, methane, esters, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

Reports of sewer odors submitted to the district go back many years. In the past three years, we have received on average 5 to 10 odor complaints per year submitted by phone call, through our website and by email. Over these same years if you were to follow some of the local social media outlets you would believe that many more complaints were formally submitted to the district. This is not the case as we do not monitor social media for the purpose of documenting, investigating, and filing reports related to sewer odor complaints. The bottom line is, it would be impossible to identify the location of the complaint, time of day the odor was detected and other factors needed for the district to efficiently evaluate and respond to odor production from the collection system and treatment plant. All sewer odor complaints properly submitted through the district office are documented, investigated and follow up actions prescribed based on the circumstances identified if any.

We have continuously encouraged residents to provide us as much detail about the location and time of sewer odors encountered so that we can appropriately implement remedies. We established an odor complaint page on our website and linked it to social media posts and sites with a simple form to be submitted to help us better document the extent of odors in the system. We also directly reached out to residents in the areas generating the most complaints on social media, and the overwhelming feedback that we received was that most did not see the odor as a nuisance or did not realize the odor at all.

The purpose of this meeting in Pine Mountain lake is to provide background on our sewer system and the many ways that odors can be produced. We also want to hear public input and concerns related to sewer odors as it will help us prioritize what in many cases can be very expensive

remedies. Another very important topic we intend to cover are the efforts the district has implemented over the past few years that are intended to systematically address and reduce odors produced by the system. We hope very much to better open the lines of communication and understanding of the problem areas and solutions being employed.

The majority of the sewer odor complaints have been lodged from the same areas of Pine Mountain Lake, with most of them located near one or more of our 15 lift stations in the PML community and the vast majority located in the southwestern portion of PML closest to the main lift stations (5, 6 and 7) and the wastewater treatment plant. We hope this presentation is helpful for community, and we will brief the board of the input and outcome at our October workshop.

ATTACHMENTS: None - A Video Presentation will be provided at the meeting

FISCAL IMPACT: None.