

BRIGHTON UTILITIES FUNDS FACT SHEET

SOME ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ON OUR UTILITIES FUNDS



Where is the \$70 million?

Let us be clear when we say that no money is missing. It is important to note that there are three funds that support Utilities - water, wastewater and storm drainage. Our most recent audited financial statements show that as of 12/31/18 the following dollars exist:

Water	\$38,365,202
Wastewater	\$18,597,898
Storm Drainage	\$4,688,299
	<u>\$61,651,399</u>

These balances represent a combination of operating funds (*generated by ratepayers and used for on-going costs to maintain the system and provide service for our residents*) and water plant investment fees (*paid by developers and used to offset the cost of growth necessitated by new development*).

* The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available at www.brightonco.gov/cafr



What projects will this money be used for?

Over the next five years, we have over \$100 million in projects planned for water, wastewater and storm drainage. **Some** of the projects planned for the near term include:

Water

- Greensand Water Treatment Plant expansion project: approximately \$40 million.
- Treatment plant repairs and improvements: approximately \$22 million
- Reservoir and pump house repairs and improvements: approximately \$14 million

Wastewater

- Metro Wastewater system partnership: approximately \$11 million
- Pipeline and manhole repairs and rehab: approximately \$3 million

Storm Drainage

- Second Creek Crossings: approximately \$30 million

It is important to note, that because our Utilities funds are enterprise funds the money collected for and held within each fund can only be used for projects and services within the enterprise.



Are we paying too much?

We are working diligently to answer this question. We anticipate a better understanding once our rate study is completed in the near future. **Water rates have not changed since 2017.**



Will I get a refund?

We are currently conducting a rate study using outside consultants. This will help us determine what rates the city needs to charge in order to ensure the city's utilities can operate and continue to provide an adequate supply of safe and clean drinking water to our residents.



When will the forensic audit review be complete?

On July 2, City Council approved staff to begin work on hiring an independent firm to conduct a forensic audit review. The forensic audit review will verify the amount of money collected and spent in the water and wastewater utilities for the years 2010 through 2018. Staff will be bringing options and their recommendations to City Council at the July 23 Study Session.