

Bureau of Environmental Services

The following questions were asked during the bureau's budget work session. Responses follow each question.

1. Why is the bureau making a \$300K reduction in Superfund?

The Superfund cuts are reductions to consulting and legal services, and are part of a package of \$2.2 million of cuts to our operating budget. We worked with the Bureau Budget Advisory Committee to find savings and to prioritize cuts.

2. Are there other options to replace the street cleaning reduction?

The reductions identified by the Bureau and BAC were agreed to be those with the smallest impact to the Bureau's level of service. The alternative to reducing BES' street sweeping contribution would be to move infiltration and inflow work on the west side from operating to the capital program. This work includes replacing a large number of leaking laterals on private property that are allowing stormwater to enter separated sanitary sewer pipes, which can overload the sanitary system during wet weather and cause sewer overflows. The issue here is that in order to capitalize these expenditures we need to secure easements on private properties, which reduces program participation rates. Fewer participants means fewer lateral repairs and that raises the risk of additional sanitary overflows if we are unable to remove adequate stormwater inflow from the system. The Bureau's BAC agreed that street sweeping was a lower priority.

3. Who will pay for Loos maintenance if BES cut is taken?

Maintaining the Loos provides a general benefit to residents of and visitors to the City, and as the bureau was asked to trim operating costs we recommend the General Fund take this cost. It should be noted that revenues from Loo sales would go with, and at least partially offset, these costs. Our intent has been to negotiate royalty agreements with Loo fabricators and thereby avoid the need for any positions to support Loo marketing and sales. The intent is to have the fabricators do the marketing and for the City to receive a royalty payment whenever a Loo is sold. We have concluded such an agreement with Romtec and intend to have an updated contract with Madden, the primary fabricator, by the end of the year. Therefore, no marketing support should be necessary to secure revenues from Loo sales.