

INFLOW & INFILTRATION (I/I) MITIGATION FOR HOMEOWNERS

This proposal will add townships and political subdivisions to MS 471.342 that allows cities to establish inflow and infiltration (I/I) loan and grant programs for property owners. The Metropolitan Council system would be included as a political subdivision that owns and operates a wastewater system.

With this authority the Metropolitan Council will work with communities served by the Metropolitan Disposal System to develop and fund an I/I mitigation program targeted at providing financial assistance to private property owners.

The funds to create this program will come from within the existing municipal wastewater charge budget to make sure there is no impact to the municipal wastewater charge due to this initiative.

- Metropolitan Council Environmental Services estimates that 20% of the annual flow treated at regional wastewater plants is I/I.
- Through their 2020 Comprehensive Plan Updates, Metro Area communities have confirmed that the largest portion of unresolved sources of I/I are attributable to private property and noted the challenge of addressing this area of the sanitary sewer system.

I/I mitigation protects public health and the environment, preserves wastewater system capacity (both community and regional), and reduces costs to ratepayers.

Long term, there is an expected cost savings for the regional system and the communities it serves as very expensive capacity expansion will either not be needed or will be deferred. Communities will directly benefit from the program by having a dedicated source of funding assistance available to private property owners who need to inspect, repair, or replace the service laterals which connect their properties to the local wastewater collection system.