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DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

1391-35TH AVENUE
SACRAMENTO, CA
95822-2911

DIVISION OF
FLOOD CONTROL AND SEWERS

916-449-5271

May 8, 1990

Budget and Finance/Transportation & Community Development Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: REPORT BACK ON QUESTIONS FROM APRIL 17, 1990 CIP HEARINGS - 12th STREET FLOODING

SUMMARY

A pending Capital Improvement Project and modified operation procedures will reduce the risk of flooding on 12th Street at the depressed section.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the April 17, 1990 joint committee hearings on Capital Improvement Projects under the Department of Public Works proposed 1990-91 budget, Councilperson Terry Kastanis inquired as to a flooding incident which occurred during the January 12, 1990 storm. During the storm the depressed section of 12th Street at Southern Pacific Railroad was flooded for several hours. Council had understood that recent improvements incorporated in the Light Rail project had corrected flooding at this location.

In March 1985 the City of Sacramento and the Sacramento Transit Development Agency entered into an agreement. This agreement included in part the installation of a storm drainage pumping station. This station would consist of outfall and inflow piping at the underpass beneath the tracks on 12th Street with the new drainage station of sufficient capacity to prevent flooding. The operation and maintenance of this station would become an obligation of the City. To date the drainage pumping station has functioned as designed and has experienced no capacity problems.

The following information addresses the situation that occurred on January 12, 1990 at the 12th Street Subway.

The flooding that occurred in the 12th Street Subway on January 12, 1990 was caused by an electrical malfunction in SMUD's system. The electrical power supplied to the pumping station was interrupted at approximately 1800 hours. During the same period of time, the City was experiencing a rainstorm that was exceeded in intensity by only four (4) other storms dating back to the year 1877. This storm event was a case of too much water in too short a period of time which caused flooding of streets in many sections throughout the City.

Due to the severity of the storm which caused many power outages, all the portable electrical generators available were being utilized at other locations. The Flood Control and Sewer Division has as part of its program to increase pumping station reliability two Capital Improvement Projects that will increase the number of generators for use during periods of SMUD power outages.

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After a review of the situation that occurred at the 12th Street Subway, some operational changes have been made to the methods of operations being used during standby rain patrol events. The pumping station that protects the 12th Street Subway will receive a top priority during rainstorms. Staff personnel will monitor this station during a storm event and more efficient communication will be established with Regional Transit maintenance personnel. These corrective measures should aid to prevent flooding at this location in the future.

Key points: Loss of power to the pump station serving 12th Street depression resulted in flooding which was made more severe due to the high intensity storm experienced. The improvements made during Light Rail construction have provided adequate capacity to serve the areas drainage requirements. Delays in reporting of the power outage and lack of available back-up generators contributed to the flooding.

Corrective measures are being taken to reduce the risk of reoccurrence of flooding at this location. Specifically, operational procedures will provide for more frequent monitoring of drainage pump stations which are critical to traffic flow. In addition, a Capital Improvement Project is now underway (CIP #XB56) which will add one mobile emergency generator to the division's fleet inventory.

FINANCIAL DATA

Not applicable.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

MBE/WBE EFFORTS

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for informational purposes only.

Respectfully submitted,




Albert McCollam, Division Manager
Flood Control and Sewers

APPROVED FOR COMMITTEE INFORMATION:



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May 8, 1990
District 1