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INFORMATION:

Audit of City's Stormwater Permit

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The Storm Water Services division of Engineering & Property Management provides design and construction services that alleviate street and house flooding, repairs or replaces failing storm drains, and works to improve surface water quality. As an enterprise fund, Storm Water Services is funded by a storm water fee that supports 95 staff members. These staff members maintain about 5,000 miles of streams and pipes, and about 200,000 storm water structures, manholes, and inlets.

Cities and towns are required by the federal Clean Water Act to obtain a state and federal permit to discharge storm water. Charlotte obtained its first permit, known as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, in 1993. Storm Water Services has managed this permit since then.

Starting the last week of February, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency initiated an audit of Charlotte's storm water permit compliance. Several key field and office programs such as Construction Site Erosion Control, Illicit Discharge program, and Municipal Good Housekeeping program were inspected by EPA. The audit is not yet complete and documents continue to be evaluated and exchanged between the auditors and City staff. This process normally takes several weeks to several months.

Several City departments were supportive of these efforts, including staff in Engineering, Fire, Transportation, and Utilities. Audit results and staff's plan for process changes, if any are needed, will be shared with Council when released by EPA.

ATTACHMENTS:

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