



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 6

**Agenda Date:** May 17, 2024

**In Control:** Governance Committee Meeting

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**DEPARTMENT:** Neighborhood and Housing Services

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Veronica Garcia, Director

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Briefing on a City Council Consideration Request (CCR) to consider establishment of the Water & Sewer Lateral Improvements Program.

**SUMMARY:**

The Neighborhood & Housing Services Department will present a briefing on a City Council Consideration Request (CCR) submitted by Councilwoman Teri Castillo, District 5, requesting City staff consider establishment of a Water & Sewer Lateral Improvements Program. This CCR outlines the request to: develop a COSA sponsored residential water & sewer lateral installation pilot; review and update *Division 2 Article V – Sewage Transportation, Treatment and Disposal*; and requesting appropriate entities work together to map out residential properties with missing laterals. This briefing will allow an opportunity for input from Committee members.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Laterals move wastewater from homes to the main sewer line. Proper water and sewer laterals affect residents' quality of life by preventing backups, preventing groundwater and surface water contamination, and reducing building code violations. Due to real estate transfers and development over time, some residences still do not have proper connections to the main sewer line, especially in older areas of San Antonio.

Existing home rehabilitations programs can address many resident concerns, including minor repairs and plumbing issues. The work, however, is typically focused on improvements to the physical home structure. Creating lateral connections from the home to the main water and septic lines involves cutting into the right-of-way and more extensive construction and utility coordination.

The proposed CCR requests creation of a program to assist residents with obtaining proper lateral connections, with a focus on low to moderate income families. City staff can also conduct a review of existing code language within *Division 2 Article V- Sewage Transportation, Treatment and Disposal* related to disclosures of missing laterals for real estate transactions, and make recommendations on potential code updates. Finally, the CCR requests coordination to identify and map residential properties with missing lateral connections.

**ISSUE:**

The City Council Consideration Request is intended to evaluate existing programs locally and nationally, and evaluate implementation of a specific program to address lateral issues.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends referring this item to the Planning & Community Development Council Committee.