

**Sewer and Water Advisory Board**  
**Sewer Surcharge for Consent Order Projects**  
Recommendation 06a-2005

Considerations:

- Consent Order Projects are mandated to address wet weather issues caused by rain and snow melt overwhelming both the separate sanitary system and the combined sewer system through inflow and infiltration.
- The cost of these projects in 2006 is expected to be \$88.2 million dollars with a debt service requirement of \$11.2 million dollars.
- The factor most closely associated with increased inflow and infiltration is impervious cover from urban development.
- The City of Columbus Stormwater Management Program assigns one (1) Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) to each residential property regardless of size. The Program assigns 1 ERU for every 2000 square feet of impervious cover for all other properties.
- Inside the City of Columbus, 92.5% of all customer accounts have been assigned 1 ERU. Approximately 4% of all customer accounts have been assigned between 2 and 9 ERUs. (The attached bar graph provides the distribution among all Columbus customers.)
- City of Columbus customers should participate in funding for all of the wet weather projects. Outside customers should not be assessed for combined sewer or priority area projects. At the present time, this results in City of Columbus customers bearing 90% of the capital costs and Outside Customers bearing 10% of the capital costs.
- When capping ERU assessments at 1000, the inside City Customer would pay \$1.31/ERU/month. The outside customer would pay \$0.51/ERU/month.

Recommendation:

A Sewer Surcharge for Consent Order Projects is required to support the Sewer Utility Enterprise. This surcharge should be assessed based on impervious cover. The allocation should be modeled on the City of Columbus Stormwater Management Program with the exception that no customer should be assessed for more than 1000 Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs). The Director should be granted discretion to implement a program with ERU credits for stormwater control. Each inside City customer should be assessed \$1.31/ERU/Month. Each outside City customer should be assessed \$0.51/ERU/Month. This will amount to an annual fee of \$15.72 per City of Columbus residential customer.