Water & Sewer Utility Fund Revenue Sufficiency Analysis

Andrew J. Burnham Vice President, Stantec

David W. Porter, P.E. City of Clearwater

City Council ~ July 31, 2017



Financial Planning & Rate-Setting History

- City's practice Adopt multi-year rate plans for water, irrigation, sewer and reclaimed
 - Current plan 3.75% per year thru FY 2021
- City conducts annual or bi-annual revenue sufficiency studies for utility enterprise funds
 - Interactive model and decision support

Overview of the Process

INPUTS

- ✓ Historical Financial Data
- ✓ Customer & Demand Forecast
- ✓ Capital & Operating Plans
- ✓ Policy Considerations
- ✓ Regulatory Requirements

Interactive Modeling Process with FAMS-XL®



OUTPUTS

- → Revenue & Operating Cost Projections MASTER PLAN
- ightarrow Capital Funding Plan
- → Reserves, Debt Coverage Ratios, KPIs
- → Rate Adjustment Requirements
- → Customer Impacts

FINANCIAL MASTER PLAN



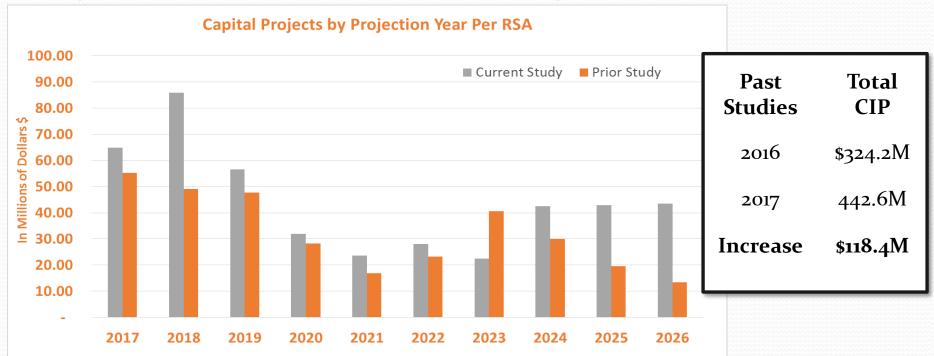
Key Financial Performance Objectives

- Balanced Funding of Infrastructure
 - Target: 50/50 mix of debt vs. cash funding
 - Action: Requires increase in annual cash funding of CIP of \$1M/yr
- Maintaining Sufficient Operating Reserves
 - Target: 6 months of operating and maintenance expenses
 - Indicative of strong systems per rating agencies and industry organizations

Key Performance Objectives Cont'd

- Maintaining Sufficient Debt Service Coverage
 - What it is: Net income / annual principal and interest expenses
 - Goal: Net revenues 2 x greater than annual debt service (min. target of at least 1.5 x)
 - Indicative of financially strong utility per rating agencies' published criteria

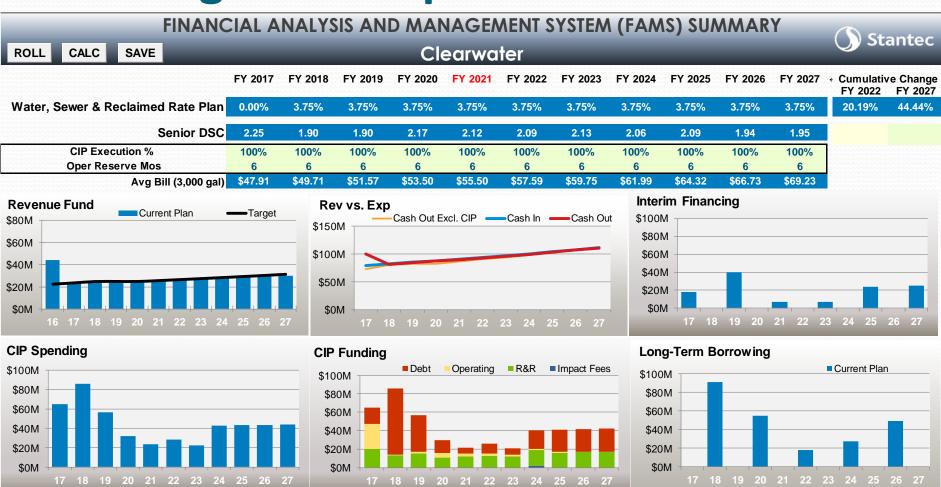
Key Issue: Increase in Capital Plan



Notable Project Increases:

- \$34M Sanitary sewer upgrades/improvements
- \$28M Marshall street upgrades/improvements
- \$21M Water system upgrades/improvements and reverse osmosis #3

Snapshot of Financial Management Plan: No change to rate plan



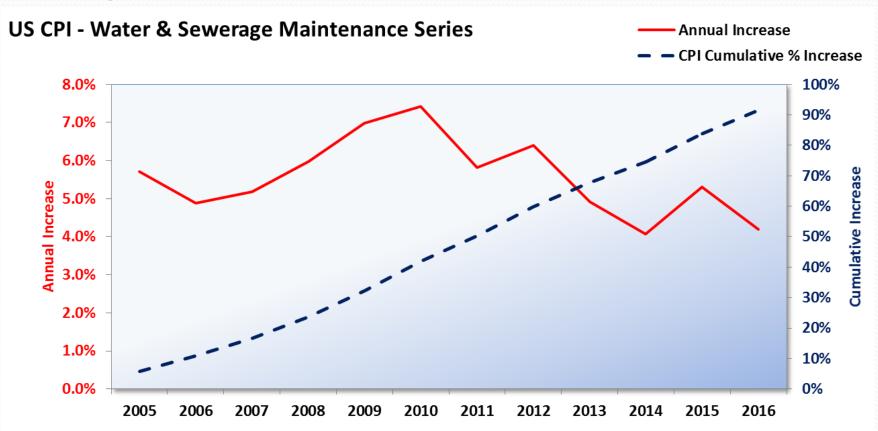
Snapshot of Financial Management Plan: Adjusted rate plan to meet key targets



19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

Comparison to National Trends



- Measures the national average change in the cost of water and sewer service to households
- Much more specific and relevant to utilities than overall CPI; 10-year avg. annual increase = 5.7%

FY 2017 Residential Bill Comparison

Combined Water & Sewer Bill Survey at 3,000 Gallons per Month



Projected FY 2018 Bill Comparison

(Based upon current available information; actual rates may vary)

Combined Water & Sewer Bill Survey at 3,000 Gallons per Month



No data available on potential for Oldsmar & Gulfport

Summary of Results & Recommendations

- Due to increase in capital plan, current rate plan does not meet key financial targets
- 5-yr plan of water, sewer, irrigation, and reclaimed water rate increases (FY18–FY22):
 - FY 2018: 6.25%
 - FY 2019 FY 2022: 4.00%
 - Achieves key financial objectives
 - Comparable to national and local trends
- Perform annual revenue sufficiency studies
 - Modify rate plan as needed (up or down)

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