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## MEDIA RELEASE

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## **\$205 million in drainage, wastewater and flood-protection projects planned across Louisville as MSD rolls out FY 2020 capital plan**

### **Preliminary rate proposal raises monthly wastewater bills \$3.47 and stormwater bills \$0.68 to fund Consent Decree progress and critical system repairs**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Progress on more than 144 projects in all corners of the community will help maintain Louisville's wastewater treatment, stormwater management and flood protection under the fiscal year 2020 capital budget the Louisville MSD's board reviewed today.

To help fund more than \$205 million in project work, today, the board adopted a preliminary rate resolution to increase the average monthly wastewater bill by \$3.47 and the average monthly stormwater bill by \$0.68. The MSD Board will take up the issue of the preliminary rate increase at a meeting on July 29. If approved, new rates would take effect August 1, 2019.

"We have shared with the community for some time about the great need to rebuild and restore the dated sewer pipes, water treatment facilities, flood pumping stations and other infrastructure that has outlived its useful life," said MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott. "While this budget will not permit us to advance the Critical Repair & Reinvestment Plan as we've recommended, we will move some of our highest priority projects forward to continue to maintain the system. It's a stopgap budget, not a cure-all budget."

### **Key initiatives included in the FY 2020 capital plan include:**

- **Reducing Sewer Overflows:** More than one half of the capital plan—about \$115 million—allows MSD to make significant progress toward meeting the estimated \$1.15 billion federal Consent Decree objective of reducing by 2024 the vast majority of combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows that pollute area waterways.

This work includes continuing progress on one of MSD's signature projects—the Waterway Protection Tunnel from downtown to Lexington Road and Grinstead Drive—as well as completing storage basin projects in the Portland neighborhood and along Southwestern Parkway.

*“The lion’s share of the capital budget goes to our Consent Decree projects to put us in the homestretch toward completing this decades-long commitment to reduce pollution in the Ohio River, our creeks and streams, and meet the federal government’s environmental requirements,” Parrott said.*

- **Water Quality Treatment:** The capital plan provides more than \$8 million to expand and improve the Hite Creek Water Quality Treatment Center. This will help ensure proper wastewater treatment capabilities are in place for Louisville’s continued development in the northeastern corridor.

In addition, more than \$5.7 million will be invested in new equipment at the Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center, one of MSD’s highest volume facilities, treating up to 350 million gallons per day and serving more than 62 percent of the community’s wastewater treatment.

*“Morris Forman is such a vital asset, with many needs. We can anticipate additional resources required in future budgets to continue improvements here,” Parrott said.*

- **Floodplain Management:** The budget commits more than \$10 million to a number of drainage improvements and flood mitigation projects across the community as well as home buyouts in flood-prone areas. One key initiative is \$3 million for flood-mitigation and buyouts in the Cathleen Way/Belquin area.
- **Ohio River Flood Protection:** MSD will invest more than \$6.8 million to shore up the system of pumping stations, floodwalls and levees that protect the community when the Ohio River exceeds its banks. Included in this is a nearly \$2.2 million project to rebuild critical pumps and other equipment at the Pond Creek Flood Pumping Station that were damaged during the record rainfall of February 2018.



#### About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization’s more than 650 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro’s sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.