

# Department of Public Utilities Combined Sewer System Program Update

Governmental Operations Committee

February 22, 2023



DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC  
UTILITIES**

# The City's Combined Sewer System Program advances our clean water future.

*It protects our community, the James River, and our environment.*



# Improved System Performance

## PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENTS

## INTERIM PLAN

## FINAL PLAN

1970 - 2020

2021-2027

Present - 2035



# Keeping Stakeholders Involved and Informed



Regulatory and Technical  
Stakeholder Engagement

**5** meetings  
in the past **year**

**Equal** representation for  
each **District**

Public Stakeholder Group

**9** year Technical  
Stakeholder Group

**22** DEQ  
meetings

# Support of CSO



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
2nd Floor of City Hall  
Richmond, VA 23219  
www.rva.gov

Legislation Text

File #: RES. 2022-R025, Version: 1

To express the City Council's support for highly prioritizing appropriations for the construction of combined sewer system plan projects by July 1, 2035, to improve water quality in the James River in a financially sustainable manner.

WHEREAS, the water quality of the James River is vital to the City's environmental and public health, recreation, tourism, and economy; and

WHEREAS, the City's combined sewer system, hereinafter referred to as the "CSS," built in the late 1800s, carries both storm water and sanitary sewer water to the City wastewater treatment plant from approximately 19 square miles

## Richmond on track with combined sewer overflow cleanup

David Ress  
Dec 28, 2022

Richmond's 34-year effort to make sure heavy rains don't overwhelm its sewers and start carrying sewage into the James River has cut such storm and wastewater overflows by more than 3 billion gallons a year.

But that \$300 million-worth of work hasn't finished the job, and the city's Department of Public Utilities says what's still to be done will cost more than \$1.3 billion.

And that, DPU says, is a bill residents can't cover through the fees they're charged on their water bills.

Recent rate increases mean they've already kicked in \$150 million for the work that's still to be done, DPU said in a report to the General Assembly.

Last year's \$50 million from the state, and this year's \$100 million appropriation of American Rescue Plan Act funds, which will be matched by equal amount from the city, will keep a set of General Assembly imposed cleanup goals on track.



## DEQ Report – November 1<sup>st</sup>



From the desk of April N. Bingham, Director  
City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities  
730 East Broad Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Richmond, VA 23219

November 1, 2022

The Honorable Michael Rolband, Director  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, VA 23219

Subject: City of Richmond 2022 Combined Sewer System General Assembly Report

Dear Mr. Rolband:

In accordance with Virginia Senate Bill 1064 ([Acts of Assembly Chapter 634, 2020](#)), the City of Richmond is pleased to submit this report on the efforts it has undertaken to address the Interim and Final Plans for its combined sewer system. This report demonstrates that the City will meet the obligations the General Assembly intended, and in doing so, will provide central Virginia with cost-effective engineered solutions that will further protect and enhance the environment, and, in particular, the vitally important James River.

The City is conducting ongoing operation and maintenance enhancements, implementing projects identified in the Interim Plan, and developing the Final Plan as required by SB 1064. These activities are taking place simultaneously, requiring the City to apply tremendous resources of both funding and staff. As the City of Richmond advances these major projects in the face of workforce issues and logistical and supply chain challenges, we are, at the same time, capturing efficiencies to ensure there is a significant and clear benefit to the environment and the James River.

This 2022 General Assembly Report will provide updates on:

- Interim Plan implementation status
- Final Plan development status
- Other ongoing projects
- Community engagement and outreach
- Costs and funding sources, as specified in the SB 1064 reporting requirements
- Future outlook

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## Financial Report – December 1<sup>st</sup>



CITY OF RICHMOND  
Department of Public Utilities

November 30, 2022

Mr. Jerome Brooks  
Regional Director  
Piedmont Regional Office  
Department of Environmental Quality  
4949-A Cox Road  
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Re: 2022 Financial Compliance & Progress Report, City of Richmond Virginia Special Order by Consent and VPDES Permit VA0063177

Dear Mr. Brooks:

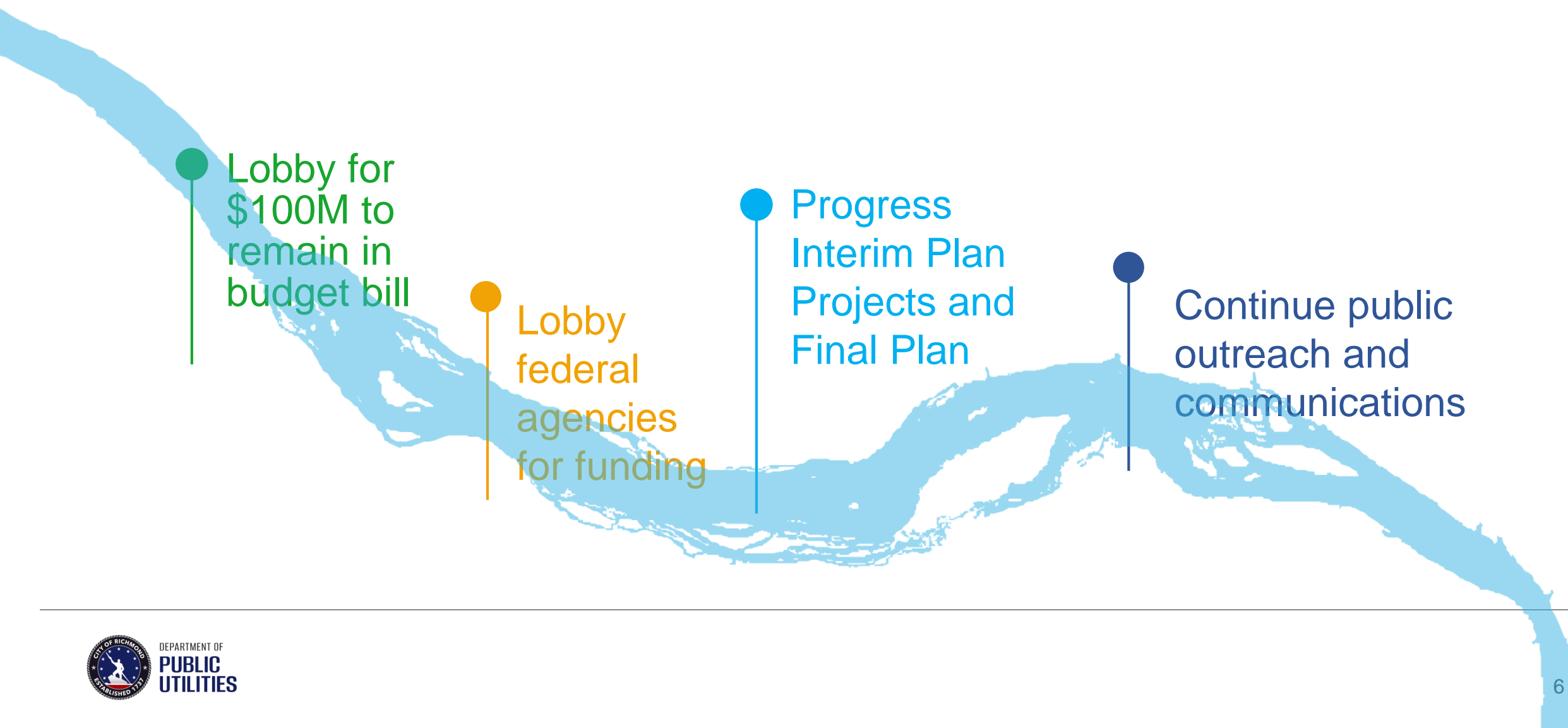
In compliance with SECTION A.4 of the STATE WATER CONTROL BOARD ENFORCEMENT ACTION SPECIAL ORDER BY CONSENT (Order) ISSUED TO THE CITY OF RICHMOND, Permit No. VA0063177, effective 17 March 2005, please accept this Financial Compliance & Progress Report describing progress made in the previous fiscal year in controlling Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and plans for further implementation of the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) in the near and long term future. This report contains all the elements required in SECTION A.4. listed in the Order as follows:

*"1. An independent rate consultant report that includes schedules and other material designed to demonstrate compliance with the above funding and spending criteria. At a minimum, the independent rate consultant's report will include:*

- a. A schedule of sewer rates and charges in effect during the year and an explanation of any changes in the sewer rates and charges during the year;*
- b. A schedule that calculates the current year annual sewer bill for a residential customer with a 7 ccf average monthly sewer use and the percentage of such bill to median household income in the City;*
- c. A schedule detailing sewer related revenues, operation and maintenance expenses, net revenues, debt service, reserve funds and the sewer debt service coverage ratio for the previous year;*
- d. A schedule detailing amounts borrowed, grants, and other sources of capital funds, and the amount of capital funds obligated for water quality projects during the previous year; and,*

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# Important Next Steps



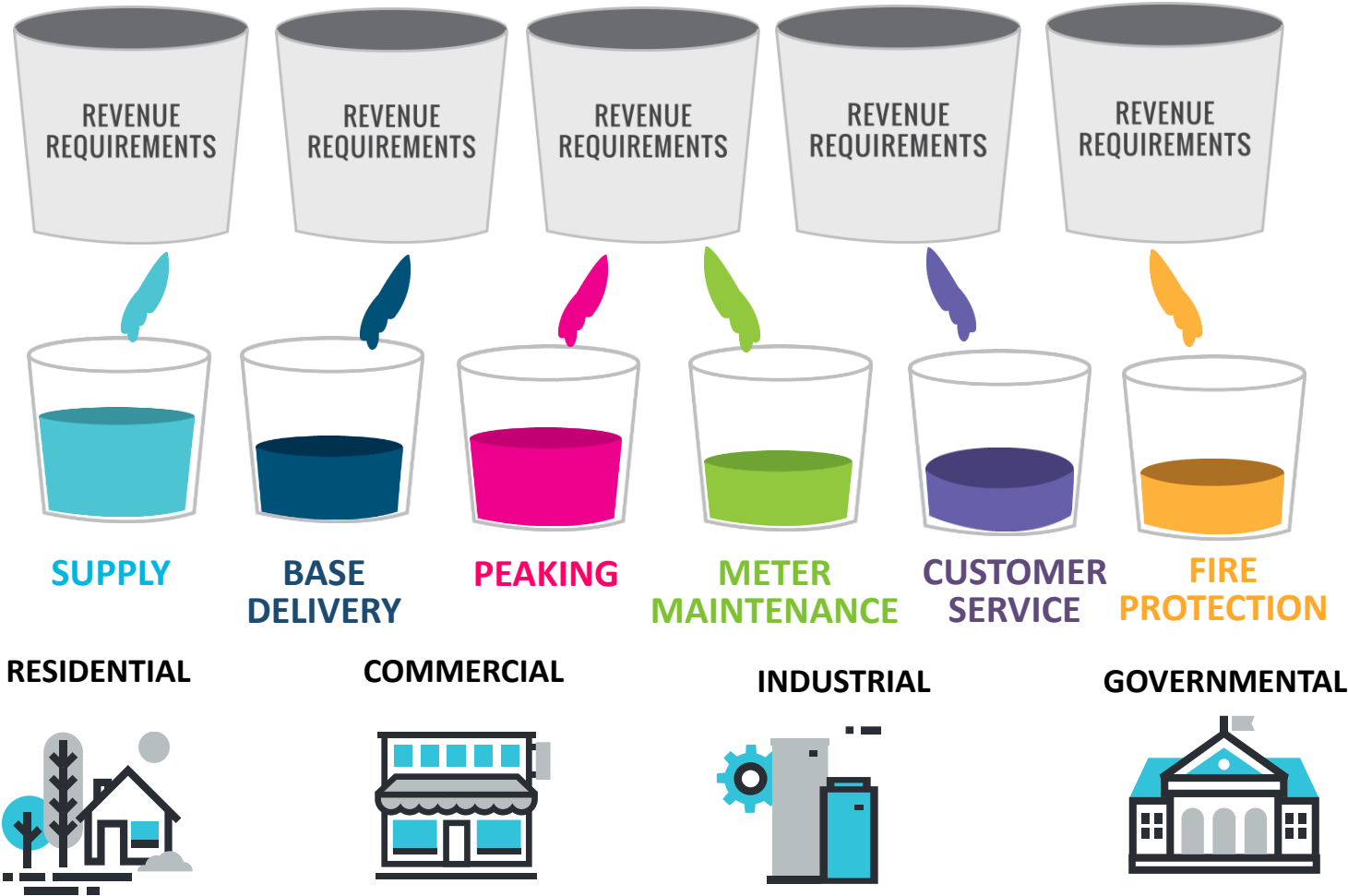
Lobby for  
\$100M to  
remain in  
budget bill

Lobby  
federal  
agencies  
for funding

Progress  
Interim Plan  
Projects and  
Final Plan

Continue public  
outreach and  
communications

# How We Allocate Cost



# Questions?