

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating Fish Hoek, Clovelly and Sun Valley)

~~Central Circle, Fish Hoek 7975~~

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Heritage Western Cape: Conservation Body

TO: wsw.plans@capetown.gov.za

**SUBJECT: 4th GENERATION INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (IWMP)
AND WATER SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PLAN (WSDP)**

DUE DATE: 26 NOVEMBER 2021

We support the plans:

1. Emphasis and investment in remediation of sewerage and water reticulation infrastructure;
2. The move towards recycling and composting and hence landfill waste reduction;
3. Investment in wastewater treatment works; and
4. An innovative concept of incorporating bin pickers into the Integrated Waste Management Plan.

Much is being said about the circular economy. We think that its terms of reuse and recycle should be applied to water which will address our water quality, water quantity (resource capacity) and water pollution problems.

Water Quality

Our drinking water is actually shockingly poor. Potent pharmaceutical effects can be found at the nanogram level, yet our City is in denial as it measures at the microgram level, which is a 1,000 times less accurate. South Africa has labs that can measure at the nanogram level where these pharmaceuticals are active AND found in our drinking water. Pharmaceuticals, nutrients and harmful chemicals must be removed from all effluent. Effective tertiary treatment, such as ultraviolet light, ozone, reverse osmosis and solar evaporation / condensation, needs to occur at all of our sewage treatment plants.

Water Quantity

The water from the tertiary treated sewage plants can supply more water than most all other sources.

Water Pollution Problems

Our infrastructure is old, sometimes over 100 years. When old water supply pipes were finally replaced in the early Avenues of Fish Hoek, just the main pipe was replaced. All of the equally old, house feeder pipes were retained. While the roads were torn up, the feeder pipes should have also been replaced as the original problem of brown stain in the water supply negatively impacting clothes washing was reduced, but the problem didn't go away.

¹ <https://www.capetown.gov.za/City-Connect/Have-your-say/Issues-open-for-public-comment/draft-2022-2027-water-and-waste-sector-plans>

Stormwater reticulation needs to be rethought. Whenever a sewage pumping station fails, which is happening more often with load shedding, the effluent overflows into the stormwater system. Each sewage pump station needs its own back generator set and working backup pump with automatic switch over. The filter system also needs a rethink to allow automatic cleaning of blockages (diapers, sanitary products, cutlery, sand, etc.), but not into the stormwater system. These blockage substances need to be transferred to landfill sites.

IWMP

“As much of the growth in the CCT taking place in the east” as stated in Section 1.2.2 Status of landfills and disposal data, then shouldn't the City be looking to creating a new landfill site in the East to reduce the logistical cost with a rethink of the short-haul transfer stations using lower cost, higher capacity, long-haulers of compacted containers.

Why does the City need 392 “little” bins on page 20?

WSDP

We applaud “Measures to address the increased pollution of inland water bodies from sewer spillages, illegal sewage discharge and poor quality treated effluent” in the Context section.

We wish that to “A prioritised investment in upgrading and extensions of wastewater treatment works, for licence compliance but also to increase the treatment capacity at a number of our plants” in Context could be added, “enhancing wastewater treatment works to include tertiary treatment for water recycling”.

Where targets are set, there seems to be no negative consequences when these targets are not met, while meeting low thresholds get incentives. Without negative consequences, this is just a paper exercise.

For the WSDP, the costs are covered by dwindling government grants and subsidies. Our concern is if the proportion of paying residents to non-paying residents continues to increase at the current trajectory, the plan may become economically non-sustainable.

SUMMARY

The Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association thinks:

- Our sewage treatment plants need to add effective tertiary treatment, such as ultraviolet light, ozone, reverse osmosis and solar evaporation / condensation;
- Recycle the water from the tertiary treated sewage plants;
- Replace the infrastructure;
- Each sewage pump station needs its own back generator set and working backup pump with automatic switch over with redesigned automatic filter cleaning system;
- The City needs to create a new landfill site in the East due to the rapidly expanding population in that direction with short-haul transfer stations supplying it; and
- Plans need to include incentives and penalties when goals are set.

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