



THE CITY OF KEY WEST  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**Date:** January 18, 2023

**To:** Patti McLauchlin, City Manager

**From:** Kelly Crowe, P.E., Utilities Director

**Cc:** Todd Stoughton, Assistant City Manager  
Ron Ramsingh, Interim City Attorney

**Subject:** Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) for the Transfer of Ownership of Approximately 4,130 feet of an Existing 30" Abandoned City of Key West Sewer Force Main along Fleming Street from White Street to Thomas Street in Exchange for Approximately 5,565 feet of an 18" FKAA Waterline along Eaton Street

### **Action Statement**

Authorize City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) for the transfer ownership of approximately 4,130 feet of an existing 30" abandoned City of Key West sewer force main along Fleming Street from White Street to Thomas Street in exchange for approximately 5,565 feet of an 18" FKAA waterline along Eaton Street

### **Background**

The Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) received grant funding and a loan from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) to replace a portion of their existing 18" water main currently located under Palm Avenue and Eaton Street. The transmission main terminates at the FKAA facility known as the "Key West Plant" at the corner of Thomas Street and Southard Street. The replacement will upgrade FKAA's infrastructure and provide resiliency for a key asset that FKAA manages and the City relies on for potable water use.

City and FKAA staff have been coordinating during the design process. Typically, water line replacement projects use open trench construction to install the new infrastructure. Open trench construction is usually more impactful due to roadway closures, detours and the need for pavement restoration at the end of the project. FKAA has proposed using an abandoned 30" sewer force main within Fleming Street between White Street and Thomas Street as a carrier pipe to route their new transmission main. This method, referred to as "slip lining", significantly reduces the need for open trench construction as the new smaller water pipe is pulled through the existing larger pipe. This method will limit the construction impacts in the project area.

The 30” pipe that FKAA is proposing to use was once used as the effluent conveyance from the Richard A. Heyman Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on Fleming Key. The 30” pipe has not been used since the city began discharging treated effluent through deep injection wells on Fleming Key back in 2002. The use of the pipe requires that the City and FKAA enter into an Interlocal Agreement (ILA).

In discussing the use of the 30” abandoned sewer force main, City staff inquired about a possible exchange of infrastructure to help advance future City initiatives as well as provide a redundant piece of infrastructure for future use, if needed. As proposed in the ILA, the City will transfer the ownership of approximately 4,130 feet of the 30” abandoned sewer force main in exchange for approximately 5,565 feet of 18” waterline. The waterline will be abandoned in favor of City use once the new water transmission line is operational. City staff envisions that the 18” pipe could be used as a redundant piece of infrastructure that could serve as a carrier pipe for a new sewer force main or for the routing of reclaimed water from the WWTP to Truman Waterfront Park.

Staff believes that the transfer of infrastructure is mutually beneficial to FKAA and the City. Due to time limits on the WIFIA loan, FKAA intends to complete construction of their new transmission main by the end of 2023, therefore; approving the ILA is a critical step in the execution of their schedule.

### **Purpose and Justification**

The proposed ILA will benefit both the City of Key West and FKAA by exchanging pieces of infrastructure that will help each agency attain their long-term goals. In addition, by utilizing the abandoned 30” sewer force main, FKAA will significantly reduce construction impacts by minimizing the extent of construction within the roadway along Fleming Street from White Street to Thomas Street.

The acquisition of the 18” water line within Eaton Street from FKAA will provide a direct route from the WWTP to Truman Waterfront Park should reclaimed water initiatives materialize in the future. City staff will be studying the feasibility of reclaimed water use in the next few years.

This action supports the Key West Strategic Plan Priority #4, Goal #4, : *Water Efficiency and Resilience*.

### **Financial Issues**

There is no direct cost component to this action at this time. FKAA will construct their project with their own funding. There is no cost share proposed in the ILA.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) for the transfer ownership of approximately 4,130 feet of an existing 30” abandoned City of Key West sewer force main along Fleming Street from White Street to Thomas Street in exchange for approximately 5,565 feet of an 18” FKAA waterline along Eaton Street.