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NO. LTC # **214-2016** LETTER TO COMMISSION

To: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

From: Jimmy Morales, City Manager

Date: May 17, 2016

Subject: Standby Electric Generation Capability/Strategy

The purpose of this letter to the Mayor and City Commission is to provide an update on the City's capability to operate its drinking water, wastewater (sewer), and storm water pumping stations in the event of a power outage.

There are 6 drinking water pumping stations serving the City of Miami Beach and 5 of them have built-in standby power generating capability. Backup power for the remaining station is not deemed critical and lack of power would only result in a minimum drop in pressure.

There are 31 wastewater pumping stations serving the City of Miami Beach and 12 of the largest stations have built-in standby power generating capability.

There are presently 31 stormwater pumping stations serving the City of Miami Beach and none of them have built-in standby power generating capability but all are equipped with receptacles to receive power from portable generators.

The City owns 5 portable generators capable of powering the wastewater pumping stations that do not have built-in power generating capability. 1 of the 5 generators is capable (large enough) of powering the largest of our storm water pumping stations.

It is recognized in the event of widespread long-term power outages, additional emergency electric power generation will be needed to operate the stormwater pumping system. Built-in emergency generators at each storm water pumping station is not practical due to the space requirements, unsightliness, and increased costs of $250,000-$500,000 per station. Purchasing additional trailer mounted portable generators is limited by storage space and cost. Each of these generators is about the size of a vehicle and would require the equivalent of a parking space for every one owned, which is not available, and costs about $140,000 each. However, there is capacity in each station so that one portable generator can service many stations on a rotating basis.

There are multiple strategies for acquiring portable emergency generators when the need arises. Three (3) outside vendors serve the Miami Beach area with rental units of the appropriate size and provide emergency response. The City of Miami Beach is a member of the FLAWARN network operated by the Florida Rural Water Association on behalf of FDEP where we have access to using portable generators owned by other member utilities. Negotiations are ongoing with a vendor to supply a guaranteed number of generators to be available to the City of Miami Beach at all times for a fixed fee.

JLM/ETC/RWC