

ITEM C 69/03/15

ANNEXURE A

QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR OR HER DELEGATED MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR WRITTEN REPLY IN TERMS OF SECTION 22 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN

Council meeting 25 March 2015

Councillor Andre Fourie asks:

1. Is the Mayor aware of the broken sewer pipe along the beach front in the Strand?
2. Is the Mayor furthermore aware of the sewage waste and water that is being pumped into the sea in anticipation of repair work on the sewer pipe? This has been going on for several weeks.
3. Can the Mayor inform the Council whether an impact study was undertaken in 2006 before this pipe was constructed, and if so, could the Mayor make arrangements for this report to be released?
4. Can the Mayor inform the Council what impact this situation has on the quality of the beach and whether or not it poses any danger to the Blue Flag status of the Strand?
5. Does the Mayor think that there was an adequate sense of urgency to deal with the situation and speed up the repair work?
6. For how many days has this sewage waste and water been pumped into the sea?
7. When does the City intend to get this situation under control, either temporarily or permanently?
8. What steps are being considered to avoid a similar situation from developing there and on other beaches in the future?

Councillor Andre Fourie
Freedom Front Plus

REPLY FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR TO QUESTION FROM CLLR A FOURIE FOR COUNCIL MEETING 25 MARCH 2015

1. Yes, the City of Cape Town is aware of the problem and has taken steps to address it.
2. The inference in the question (namely: that sewage waste and water is being pumped into the sea) is incorrect. Since the City became aware of the problem, sewage is being pumped from manhole to manhole on either side of the damaged section, using a standby pump.
3. The pipeline was replaced, not constructed in 2006. No impact study was required in 2006, since the activity did not trigger any listed activity in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations in the National Environmental Management Act.
4. As the sewage is being pumped from one manhole to the other without any spillage to the beach, we do not foresee any impact on the beach's blue flag status.

It is also important to note that the volume of sewage in the line is minimal. Should unforeseen spillage occur, such spillage would thus be minimal and is highly unlikely to have negative impacts.

The City actively monitors water quality.

We monitor the Strand coastline at five areas, including:

- Lourens River, sea near river mouth
- Strand – opposite Woltemade Street
- Strand – opposite the old Springbok Café
- Strand – Pavillion jetty and,
- Strand – Harmony Park jetty

The pipeline in questions is situated opposite the old Springbok Café.

The sea water quality results during the month of February were acceptable, and not affected by the broken pipe.

5. Yes. Delays that did occur were the result of a delayed response from the relevant authorities (the National Department of Environmental Affairs and the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning) to our application to undertake remedial work.

The City has to follow the due process and must receive a go-ahead from these authorities prior to conducting any work. Any failure to do so could be considered non-compliance and could result in prosecution.

The application and approval process also ensures that infrastructure solutions do not put other infrastructure in the area at risk.

6. This occurred only (i) when the problem first arose and before the over pumping system was in place, and (ii) for short periods when the pump broke down – when it took contractors only a couple of hours to get a replacement pump in place.
7. A contractor is currently on site to install a replacement pipe in a permanent position behind the sea wall (in accordance with the approved Environmental Authorisation to move the line to beyond the sea wall).

The remainder of the pipeline (which is currently functioning well) will be relocated during the construction of the new sea wall, which is due to commence later this year.

8. The City has an approved Environmental Authorisation for a revamping of the sea wall along the beach and for the retreat of the sewer line from the current position (where it is vulnerable to erosion) to beyond the sea wall. This would put the line in a more secure/ safe area.
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