



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911
Phone: 502.540.6000 | LouisvilleMSD.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder
Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.540.6552
502.919.0325

Protecting Louisville from Ohio River Flooding

Louisville MSD Receives \$3 million to identify repairs

Following the rainiest February in Louisville in 134 years, Louisville MSD will receive \$3 million from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to identify risks to the city's flood protection system and develop a repair plan. U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced the funding on Thursday morning as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

One of MSD's core functions is to maintain the Ohio River Flood Protection System that protects \$24 billion in property throughout 110 square miles of Louisville Metro. The system includes 29 miles of flood wall and earthen levee, 16 flood pumping stations, nearly 150 floodgates and 80 floodwall closures.

The recent flooding in February and March ranks among the 10 worst floods in Louisville as approximately 40 billion gallons of rain fell across the city in five days. Inspections have revealed that MSD lost 17 percent of its flood protection capacity from damages suffered during that recent flood. "Evaluations of the system are ongoing, but the figure to date is \$2.5 million and climbing," stated MSD Chief of Operations Brian Bingham.

Louisville has an aging flood protection system. The 1937 Ohio River flood led to the construction of the system MSD operates today. The floodwalls constructed in the 1940s and '50s are still in service. The pumping stations that redirect flood waters away from homes and businesses are more than 60 years old and operate with parts that are no longer available for replacement. MSD needs to update this infrastructure to keep up with Louisville's growing population. "We are grateful for Leader McConnell's support to secure funding," said MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott. "We're ready to get started to work with the USACE and develop a plan to protect Louisville for future generations."

The flood protection study will look at the potential failures in the flood protection system, the impact to homes and businesses and options for repair. MSD had already started to identify improvements as part of its Critical Repair & Reinvestment Plan, a 20-year outline of projects for flood protection, wastewater and drainage. However up to this point, funding the projects has been a challenge.

The study will take 18 months for the USACE and MSD to complete, and then develop a list of recommended improvements.

About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 630 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.