

Division of Water

Request for Legislation

Authorizing the Division of Water (CWD) to amend Ordinance No. 732-2020 to allow for additional funding source.

Background/Purpose:

** Original Ordinance No. 732-2020 was passed by City Council on November 18, 2020. The purpose of the amendment is for CWD to apply for state funding.

Of the four CWD water treatment plants, only the Baldwin Plant has a visible above-water intake, known as the Kirtland Crib. The intakes for the other plants are submerged near the bottom of the Lake. Constructed between 1896 and 1904, the iconic orange structure protects the intake to the five-mile tunnel that runs 50 feet below the bottom of Lake Erie to the Kirtland Pump Station along the East Shoreway, which then pumps untreated lake water to the Baldwin Plant for treatment. The Crib has a concrete deck that supports a crane and a three-story building that houses a solar/electrical system, navigation aids, and assorted instrumentation.

The Crib exists in a harsh marine environment. The last major repair to the Crib was in 1991, when the original living quarters were demolished, and the current three-story building was constructed. The Crib was repainted in 2004. During its entire history, the Crib has operated continuously and has been subject to routine inspections and maintenance visits by CWD personnel. Operations and engineering staff have noted ongoing maintenance issues on the structure. Major interior, exterior, and underwater inspections of the structure were performed in 2017. In particular, the steel beams that provide support to the three-story building require rehabilitation. Additionally, the exterior steel panels and concrete that comprise the Crib belt require repairs to provide continued protection from boats, floating debris, and ice.

Justification/Urgency:

CWD believes the rehabilitation of the Kirtland Crib qualifies for State of Ohio funding.

Additional funding source:

The Director of Public Utilities and/or the Director of Finance is authorized to apply for and accept a one or more Water Supply Revolving Loan Account ("WSRLA") loans from the Ohio EPA, Ohio Water Development Authority, or other appropriate state agency.