

PUBLIC WORKS
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MARDI GRAS SEASON

- Mardi Gras dates back thousand of years to rites of spring festivals celebrated by the pagans.
- Rex, one of the oldest Mardi Gras krewes in New Orleans, has been participating in parades since 1872, and established purple, gold, and green as Mardi Gras colors.
- The Souldard neighborhood in St. Louis began their own Mardi Gras celebration in 1980.
- Mardi Gras ends with the beginning of the Lenten season, Ash Wednesday. This year March 5th.

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The Water Smells Like. . .

Cucumbers! In the last couple of days we have had a number of customers calling our office to report that they are experiencing issues with the smell and taste of the water. The most common description is the smell and flavor of cucumbers, but watermelon has also been mentioned. We want to assure you that the water is safe to drink and that the operators at the Water Treatment Plant have adjusted their processes to eliminate the problem. You should probably begin noticing improvement in the next couple of days.

In the meantime we began looking for an explanation for the cause. As best as we have been able to determine the culprit seems to be Synura algae. Synura is an algae that grows well at low temperatures and low light and can even grow under ice. The odor produced by Synura has been described as "cucumber" or "muskmelon". Only very low concentrations of Synura are necessary to produce enough of these compounds to impart noticeable tastes and odors.

So it appears that the Synura bloom is just one more problem that has been created by this winter. The good news. . .Spring is only 20 days away.



Request for Qualifications

The City of Highland intends to construct a new 3.2 MGD clarifier at the water treatment plant. The new clarifier will increase capacity. The plans are also to build a structure to cover the new and existing clarifiers.

Currently the city is seeking requests from consulting engineering firms that might be interested in this project to submit a Statement of Interest, Statement of Qualifications, and Performance data to the Public Works Department.

The consulting engineering firm will provide services to analyze the existing clarifiers, make recommendations for new structures, obtain IEPA permits and prepare bid specifications and plans through the project award.

An outline of the scope of services for this project is available at this office and the required documents expressing interest in the project must be returned by 4:00pm on March 28, 2014. Responding firms should NOT submit any verbal or written estimate of cost or proposals in terms of dollars, hours required, percentage of construction costs, or any other measure of compensation, the city is prohibited in seeking such information in connection with the requested submittals.