



## Deep Flaws in Sewer Deal Require Your Help at Monday Evening Meeting

Sierra Club and its lawyers have devoted days of time reviewing the proposed sewer deal since **we first saw it last Wednesday**. As presently worded, the deal will hurt implementation of the sewer cleanup ... at worst, you will lose prior commitments to MSD fixes because of decisions of “**new management**.”

The **biggest immediate need** is more time for the public to evaluate the proposed deal ... any important environmental agreement usually gets at least 60 days for the public to consider the terms of any proposed fix. Thirty days is probably enough here and there are members of both City Council and the County Commission who support the call for more time. Sadly, a few seem determined to use pressure tactics to cut off public review.

There are many problems ...underlying causes of past MSD disputes are not being addressed. On top of that, the City and County are withholding the plans for Phase II of court-ordered sewer fixes. The plan was required to be released (after 7 years of planning) and ready to be released in June, but they are being stalled for no good reason. **These plans directly impact the entire problem and the sewer concerns of many of you!**

The proposed deal establishes an unelected 5-member board to oversee the Sewer District Director and manage day-to-day operations. This board, 3 appointed by the County and 2 by the City, have no specified qualifications, no specific conflict of interest provisions to give the public comfort, a huge workload (\$200 million in operating dollars, consent decree deadlines that the Metropolitan Sewer District predicts will be late, no plan for over **2 billion dollars** of sewer work **beginning after 2018**. At very least some public protections need to be added to this controversial board.

Attorneys for the city and county just told Sierra Club’s attorney that past commitments made by MSD **may not be honored unless they are backed by signed agreements**. This creates huge questions about the Lick Run Project, Kings Run stream restoration and storage tank, odors from treatment processes outside a short list proposed in the agreement, unwritten promises to pay claims for sewage backups into homes, businesses and churches. And what about promises to make rates fair and affordable?

The County needs to explain why it opposes a Special Master who can cut through many of the concerns about delays in Phase 2 of the consent Decree. A Special Master is an individual reporting directly to the Court, to insure the Consent Decree is implemented, sewage backups into homes, churches and businesses are eliminated, and overflows of sewage into our creeks and rivers are abated.

**Come to the public hearing Monday August 7, 2017 at 7:30 pm at Sewer District, Wastewater Collection Division, 225 W. Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215.**

Learn more and let your voice be heard. The County Commission and City Council are expected to vote on August 9 to commit us to a 45-year agreement that has not been properly reviewed and debated.

More information as it is available will be posted at [miamigroup.org](http://miamigroup.org)