



## Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Robert Powell, Business Development and Strategic Planning Manager**

[powellr@delcora.org](mailto:powellr@delcora.org)

Telephone: 610-876-5523, extension 127

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### **DEL CORA signs agreements with municipalities to treat wastewater**

The Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority, the Middletown Township Sewer Authority and the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority (DEL CORA) have reached agreements to redirect the wastewater flow from the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority Baldwin Run wastewater treatment plant to the DEL CORA Western Regional Treatment Plant.

These agreements will allow all seven municipalities who are tied into the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority Baldwin Run plant to benefit from the economies of scale in the 50 million-gallons-a-day DEL CORA plant.

DEL CORA will design, bid and construct a pump station and force main from the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority plant to DEL CORA's Western Regional Treatment Plant. The municipalities will share the costs of construction and operation, based on actual metered flows through the facilities.

A pre-design estimate for construction is between \$7 to \$10 Million. Only those municipalities that use the newly constructed pump station and force main will bear the cost of construction.

The agreements will allow DELCORA to move forward with planned process and handling improvements which will improve environmental quality and impact at its Western Regional Treatment Plant, as well as help to stabilize DELCORA rates.

Joseph Salvucci, DELCORA Executive Director, points out, "These agreements move wastewater treatment in Delaware County a long way toward achieving the vision in the 1971 Delaware County Sewage Facilities Plan of environmentally responsible and cost effective wastewater management services for the county. We look forward to adding customers of the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority facility to the DELCORA family".

The determination to move forward with the proposal at this time was based on the immediate need for expensive upgrades and maintenance to the Baldwin Run plant to continue to operate over the short- term and an expected increase in treatment requirements for the Baldwin Run plant that are expected to cost in excess of \$15 Million. This move will benefit the current Baldwin Run plant users by assuring long-term rate stability and environmentally-sound treatment more economically than the cost that could be accomplished at the existing facility.

These agreements will allow DELCORA, which has a long history of providing environmentally sound wastewater treatment to many municipalities throughout the immediate Chester area and much of Delaware County, to implement some planned, but unfunded upgrades to its treatment processes. These upgrades, made possible by the improved revenue stream, will reduce the pollutant load on the environment in Chester and the surrounding area.

Under the agreement with the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority, DELCORA may assume ownership of the collection system owned by Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority in parts of Chester Township. DELCORA also will undertake any pre-treatment responsibilities required for the Middletown system. These additional responsibilities will be paid for by the users who directly benefit from the service.

Sewage Facilities Planning (537 Planning) must be completed before the agreements are implemented. The planning effort will be led by the Delaware County Planning Department and will take at least to the end of the year and possibly longer.

Public meetings will take place and public comment will be sought prior to completion of a final plan or the start of construction. DELCORA, The Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority and the Middletown Township Sewer Authority are planning public information meetings for residents in the near future.

Selection of the force main route will not take place and construction will not begin until the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection approves the plans.