



DATE: February 2, 2026

MEMO TO: Paul Frank, Chair
Planning Committee

FROM: Ken Jones
Director of Land Preservation

RECOMMENDATION: Provide policy direction regarding an updated request from the Lake County Public Works Department (“Public Works”) to enter into a new easement agreement that would extinguish two existing easements and grant a new easement, allowing Public Works to replace and relocate existing force main sewer lines within Cahokia Flatwoods Forest Preserve.

FINANCIAL DATA: At this time there is no financial impact. The County will pay the \$1,000 application fee and reimburse the District for its legal expenses.

BACKGROUND: A Lake County Public Works force main (sewer line) extends north from Lake Cook Road, crossing under the Des Plaines River, and intersecting Milwaukee Avenue north of Inverrary Lane. This sewer line was installed subject to the terms of an easement recorded as document #2250790 on November 15, 1983. A second force main runs east-west from Portwine Road on District property along the frontage with Lake-Cook Road and was completed subject to the terms of an easement recorded as document #2250789 on November 15, 1983. The two force mains connect on District property west of the Des Plaines River Trail.

In February, 2025, Public Works approached the District with a request to replace the north-south force main and to change its location. That line runs near, along and under the Des Plaines River Trail, and within a heavily forested area, making access to some portions of it difficult. The new location requested by Public Works would allow the force main to more closely align with the Des Plaines River Trail. In March, 2025, the Planning Committee provided policy direction to negotiate and prepare an amended easement for the north-south easement.

In January, 2026, Public Works determined it would be more advantageous to create a new easement for both the north-south and east-west force mains and extinguish the original easements. The new force mains would be installed primarily via directional boring.

Staff is seeking policy direction to negotiate and prepare a new easement agreement that would extinguish the existing easements and grant a new easement addressing Public Works’ request and other matters related to the project.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Natural Resources, Director of Planning, Manager of Board Operations and Corporate Counsel.