

John – I've done a cursory look at the new specs the city is looking to adopt. Not sure what input you'd like to receive. The item I noticed (there may be more) were the manhole frame and covers having the city's name cast in the lid.

Here are the issues I see:

1. Availability – manufacturers will not produce these in significant quantities which will either disrupt the completion of capital improvement projects or require the city to stock enough to cover all of their projects and unforeseen needs.
2. Compatibility – manhole frame and lids are not interchangeable between manufacturers. The implications of this are obvious, but I'll state it anyway. Anything existing (installed) that needs a new lid becomes an issue. If we're able to get more than 1 manufacturer to make these, each distinct manufacturer's frame and cover must be kept separate from the other's frame and cover. Only like manufacturer materials can used together to insure lids are not "popped" out by traffic.
3. Cost – this is the least significant which is why it is last, but there will be a cost impact for the material. I have not done an analysis, and I don't intend to, but it will most certainly increase the price per unit.

That is all I have for you on these changes for now. Always feel free to reach out to me via email, phone, or text.

Hope you had a wonderful holiday season and have a great new year!

Rhett Paro
North Bay Waterworks Manager

