

Holyoke to seek bids from companies interested in treating its wastewater

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**HOLYOKE** — Holyoke’s Board of Public Works voted 2-1 on Monday to ask Mayor Joshua A. Garcia to invite proposals from companies interested in managing Holyoke’s wastewater treatment services.

Although the existing 20-year contract with Veolia expires on Sept. 29, 2025, Holyoke said in a statement issued Monday that representatives at Monday’s meeting said the service company would still bid on the new contract.

Mary L. Monahan, chair of the city’s public works board, said Monday that the competitive procurement process “is not a reflection on the performance of Veolia.” Rather, Monahan said she was interested in “how our next long-term service agreement can incorporate technologies that generate green power, advance the City’s economic development initiatives, and generate revenue,” according to the release.

Mayor Garcia agreed to look at the contractors’ proposals with a “green lens.”

“Wastewater management is a huge responsibility that I, as Mayor, take very seriously. We have to be certain that our systems are state of the art,” Garcia added.

Department of Public Works board member Joseph Kietner motioned to recommend the request for proposals. Member Libby Hernandez seconded the motion. Kietner and Monahan voted in favor, while Hernandez opposed.

Brian Beauregard, an ad hoc committee member appointed to explore contracting options, said opening the floor to proposals will allow Holyoke to benefit from the expertise of the industry’s most technologically sophisticated firms.

Holyoke’s estimated wastewater service fee is \$7.3 million for the 2024 fiscal year. Sewer breaks and other factors could affect the final bill.