



North Fort Bend
Water
Authority

Winter 2019

SURFACE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Project Update



About the Surface Water Supply Project

To meet water demands for 2025 and beyond, and to meet the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District and Fort Bend Subsidence District's groundwater reduction requirements, the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) has partnered with the North Fort Bend Water Authority (NFBWA) to deliver the Surface Water Supply Project (SWSP).

The project starts at the City of Houston's Northeast Water Purification Plant and extends west through north Houston to west Harris County. This project will supply west Harris County and north Fort Bend County residents the same water supply received by City of Houston residents, and the additional demand will be offset by water from the Trinity River through the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project and other City of Houston-led improvements. Surface water will be supplied from Lake Houston by way of the City of Houston's Northeast Water Purification Plant, through approximately 35 miles of 8-foot-diameter cathodically protected welded steel pipeline and two large pump stations.

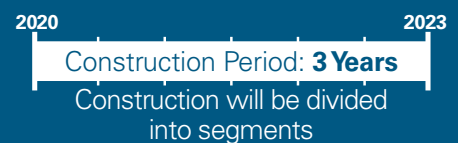
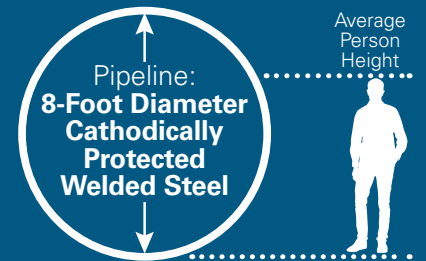
Project Timeline Update

Since the start of detailed design on the SWSP in 2016, the Project has experienced unforeseen delays, including adjustments to the water line alignment. As a result, this has caused the timeline for the SWSP to change. The Project is now nearing completion of the Design Phase. Contractors may be seen in your area conducting geotechnical survey work, requesting access to your property. Prior to conducting surveys, contractors will attempt to contact you before accessing your property by placing door hanger notices. For your convenience, a contractor phone number for coordination is provided as part of the information on the door hanger.

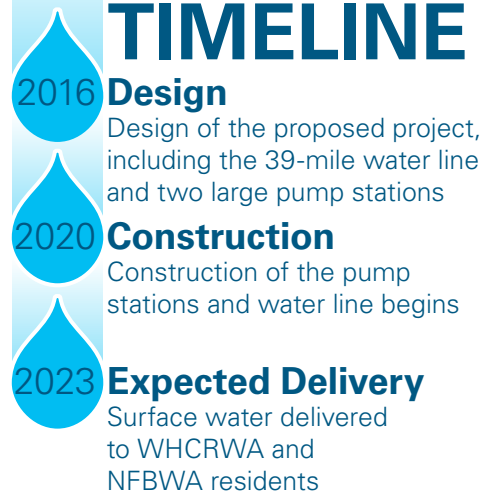
The Construction Phase is now expected to begin in Spring 2020. The tentative timelines for each segment are still under development and construction schedules have not yet been defined. The construction planning of each segment will aim to minimize impacts to any given area for extensive amounts of time. Although no segment will be affected for the entire three-year construction phase, further details regarding impacts to individual properties during construction will be provided closer to construction. We will also coordinate with schools and emergency services regarding road closures. Your safety, ease of access, and well-marked detour information will be our priority throughout the life of the Project.

Following construction of the SWSP, delivery of surface water to WHCRWA and NFBWA residents through the new water line is scheduled to begin in 2023.

Fast Facts



PROJECT TIMELINE





To minimize community impacts, the majority of the pipeline will be installed within existing pipeline corridors.

What to Expect During Construction

When construction starts in Spring 2020, residents, business owners, and anyone traveling in the vicinity of the project's corridor may experience detours, access issues, and other construction impacts, such as noise and dust on the roadways. The WHCRWA is committed to ensuring that construction impacts are minimized whenever possible. For example, a majority of the pipeline will be installed within existing pipeline corridors. The public's safety, ease of access, and well-marked detour information will be a priority throughout the life of the Project. The WHCRWA and NFBWA are committed to proactively and continuously communicating with the public about the details of this Project.

The WHCRWA is working with all necessary governmental and regulatory agencies to coordinate construction and minimize impacts along the entire route. In addition to complying with all applicable City of Houston ordinances regarding construction, including noise and air quality, the WHCRWA requires that its contractors go above and beyond to minimize disruption to traffic, and to follow other best management practices. Major roads are planned to remain open during all traffic times. Safety is a key consideration, as contractors will be required to maintain safe job sites. The WHCRWA will inspect facilities and properties along the corridor on a regular basis.

As necessary, contractors will be required to repair damaged roadways that are impacted by construction. Access to churches, schools, businesses, and other properties will be maintained throughout construction. SWSP Program Managers will coordinate with these entities and local emergency services in advance to determine and communicate necessary road closures, identify appropriate detours, and phase construction so that disruption is minimized.

If your property is located along the proposed alignment, you will be contacted well in advance of construction activity, and you may have already been contacted regarding right-of-way acquisitions and right-of-entry to your property. If you have questions, please contact info@surfacewatersupplyproject.com.

What are the benefits of the project?

Because the WHCRWA is buying water from the City of Houston, the WHCRWA is paying its share of the City of Houston's overall water distribution expansion program. Specific elements of the City's program include the Northeast Water Purification Plant Expansion and the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project, which will maintain the water level at Lake Houston by transferring water from the Trinity River. The City and the customers of the WHCRWA and NFBWA will benefit from the shared operational efficiencies and cost savings resulting from this collaboration. Through this collaboration, these projects will be delivered faster, and benefits will be realized sooner.

The SWSP is funded through bonds issued by the WHCRWA and the NFBWA. A significant portion of these bonds will be sold to the Texas Water Development Board through a state-wide program for financing water projects. The total project costs are estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion, and this project is funded solely by the Water Authorities. The Water Authorities' interest payments and repayment of principal on the bonds to the Texas Water Development Board will be supported by each Authorities' sale of surface water to their customers and pumpage fees charged on well water pumped within the Authority. **No one outside of the Authorities' Groundwater Reduction Plan will pay for the Surface Water Supply Project.**

Regional Surface Water Supply Collaboration





The SWSP Community Outreach Team has delivered over 30 presentations to communities in the proximity of the project alignment.

Community Outreach

In an effort to communicate proactively, transparently, and continuously with the neighborhoods and communities that will be temporarily impacted by construction, the SWSP Community Outreach Team has been presenting information to stakeholders in the proximity of the project alignment. Since 2015, over 30 presentations about the SWSP have been made to civic clubs, super neighborhoods, homeowner associations, community improvement organizations and other groups.

The purpose of these presentations is to educate the community about the SWSP and its temporary impacts, include them in the conversation surrounding the project, and address any comments or concerns that community members may have.

These community meetings and presentations are ongoing and will continue throughout the construction phase of the Project. The SWSP Community Outreach will provide communities with up-to-date information and listen to concerns and feedback. We are committed to communicating proactively with you and will strive to be good neighbors throughout the construction process. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please contact the SWSP Project Team at our toll-free hotline at **1-844-638-SWSP (7977)**, or by emailing **info@surfacewatersupplyproject.com**.

Outreach to Local Contractors and Small Businesses

As a result of the feedback received during the community outreach, the SWSP Project Team has identified a strong desire for inclusion of local minority-owned and small businesses in the contracting and implementation of the SWSP. In response to this community feedback, the WHCRWA is undertaking a four-step approach to encourage diversity in contracting and implementation of the SWSP by:

1. Utilizing a database of certified local minority companies that can be accessed by prime contractors for inclusion in bidding;
2. Holding workshops to facilitate Minority/Woman Owned Small Business Enterprise (M/WSBE) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification;
3. Creating a resource event where potential prime contractors on the SWSP can meet potential M/WSBE and DBE subcontractors; and
4. Tracking M/WSBE and DBE participation on the SWSP on an annual basis.

In accordance with this approach, the WHCRWA partnered with the City of Houston (COH) Office of Business Opportunity (OBO) to conduct four M/WSBE and DBE Pre-certification Workshops in neighborhoods near the project alignment. Following the facilitation of the M/WSBE and DBE Pre-certification Workshops, the SWSP team held a Contractor Outreach Workshops in June 2018 and January 2019.

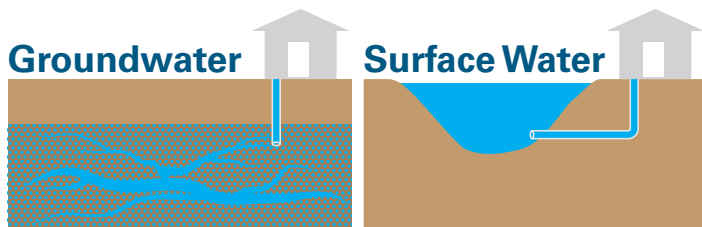
The purpose of these workshops is to provide information to potential contractors about the upcoming construction phase of the SWSP, project segments, bid package information, and opportunities for potential prime contractors to network with potential subcontractors. For more information about how you can do business with the SWSP, visit the "Doing Business" section of the project website at **www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com/doing-business**.

Why is this project necessary?

The Surface Water Supply Project is needed to conserve groundwater and reduce land subsidence.

Drinking Water Sources

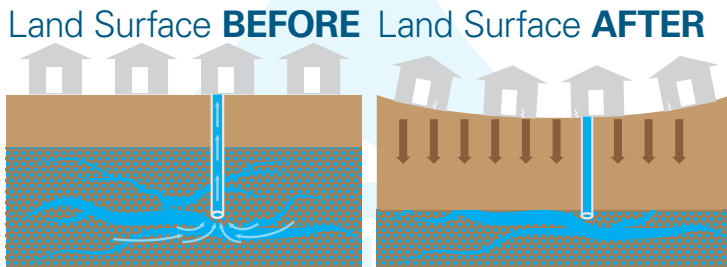
Our drinking water comes from two sources: surface water and groundwater. Surface water is water stored above ground, such as in a river or lake. Groundwater is the water beneath Earth's surface in underground aquifers. In the greater Houston area, sustained pumping and withdrawal of groundwater causes land subsidence.



Groundwater withdrawal in Harris and Galveston counties is regulated by the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD), a special purpose district created by the Texas Legislature in 1975 for the purpose of reducing land subsidence. In general, The HGSD requires all water suppliers in Harris and Galveston counties to reduce groundwater pumping based on the rate of subsidence in their area. Areas 1 and 2 are already required to and primarily use surface water. Area 3 is mandated to convert to 80% surface water supply by 2035. Most of the City of Houston has already converted from groundwater to surface water. Now, surrounding areas must follow suit in meeting these regulatory mandates.

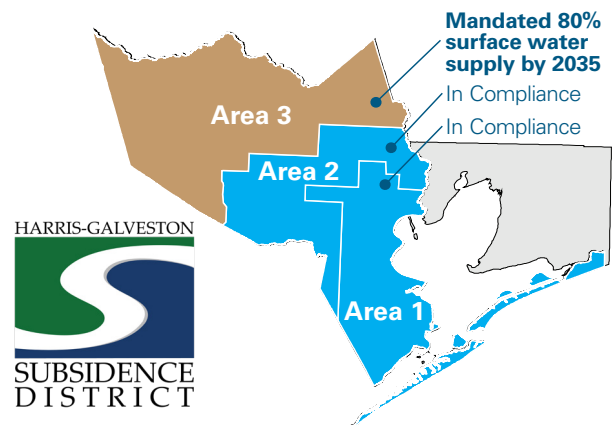
Groundwater and Land Subsidence in our Area

Land subsidence is sinking of the land surface. Pumping large amounts of groundwater causes the ground to settle, lowering the elevation of the land. From 1906 to 2000, as much as seven feet of subsidence has been measured in northwest Harris County.



The WHCRWA provides service to a large portion of Area 3, which is still largely dependent on groundwater. To comply with the conversion requirements of the HGSD, the WHCRWA is delivering the Surface Water Supply Project. The project will also allow the NFBWA to comply with Fort Bend Subsidence District groundwater reduction requirements. This project will help to reduce land subsidence and will meet the water needs of a rapidly-growing population.

Groundwater Reduction Requirements



About the West Harris County Regional Water Authority

The WHCRWA was established in 2001 to supply surface water to the western region of Harris County. The WHCRWA service area includes approximately 120 municipal water providers within the boundaries of the WHCRWA and seven municipal utility districts (MUDs) located outside of the WHCRWA boundaries.

As mandated by the Texas legislature, the WHCRWA has several objectives:

- ◆ To acquire and provide a reliable supply of surface water
- ◆ To conserve, preserve, protect, and recharge groundwater resources
- ◆ To facilitate compliance with subsidence district requirements
- ◆ To encourage water conservation

