

# SWSP

WHCRWA  NFBWA  
**SURFACE WATER  
SUPPLY PROJECT**

Spring 2023

[www.SurfaceWaterSupplyProject.com](http://www.SurfaceWaterSupplyProject.com)

Cover photo from Segment B2 96" pipeline tunnel located at Clara Road that runs from White Oak Bayou to IH-45 West.

# The Surface Water Supply Project

To meet the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD) and Fort Bend Subsidence District's (FBSD) groundwater reduction requirements for 2025 and beyond, the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) has partnered with the North Fort Bend Water Authority (NFBWA) to construct the Surface Water Supply Project (SWSP). The Surface Water Supply Project is needed to conserve groundwater and reduce land subsidence. Land subsidence is the sinking of the land surface. Pumping large amounts of groundwater causes the ground to settle, lowering the elevation of the land. This project will help to reduce land subsidence and will meet the water needs of a rapidly growing population.

Once complete, surface water from Lake Houston will be supplied to retail water providers such as Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs), Public Utility Districts (PUDs), and Water Control and Improvement District (WCIDs). These transmission pipelines will vary in diameter from 42 inches to 96 inches, depending on the pipeline segment. Project construction began in 2020 and is expected to be completed by 2026.

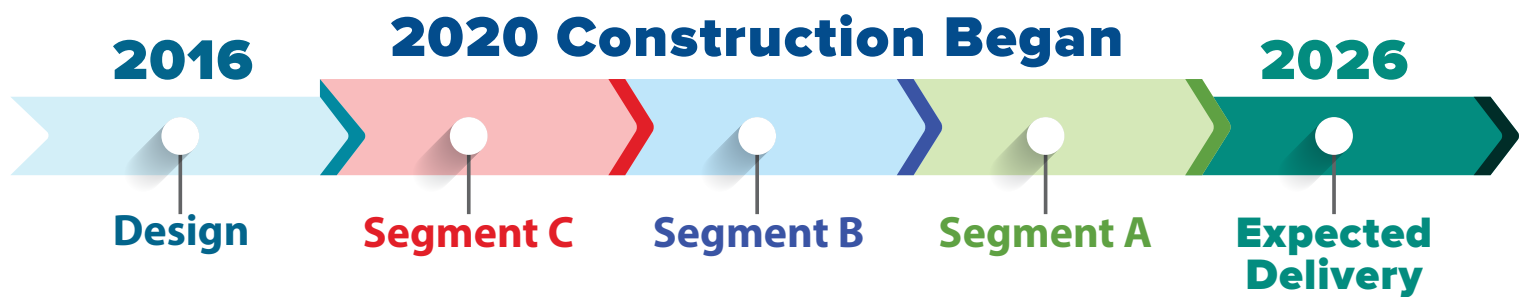
All construction will be completed in segments, and the waterline will be built one segment at a time. You can find updated timelines for construction at [www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com](http://www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com).



The construction for each segment will aim to minimize impacts to any given area for extensive amounts of time. As construction moves along the project alignment, residents, business owners, and anyone traveling in the vicinity of the pipeline alignment may experience detours, access issues, and other construction activities associated with large-scale linear projects. To minimize these impacts, much of the pipeline will be installed within existing pipeline corridors. Public safety, ease of access, and well-marked detour information will be a priority throughout the delivery of the project.

Delivery of surface water to WHCRWA and NFBWA residents through this line is scheduled to begin in 2026.

Project team members are committed to communicating proactively with your community. For more information about construction in your area, please visit [www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com/construction](http://www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com/construction).



## Construction Updates

### Segment A

Segments A1 and A2 have been awarded. Construction is anticipated to begin by summer of 2023.

Up-to-date construction information is available online at [surfacewatersupplyproject.com](http://surfacewatersupplyproject.com).



# Segment B

Segment B is divided into three segments, Segment B1, B2, and B3. All three Segments have been awarded and are currently under construction.

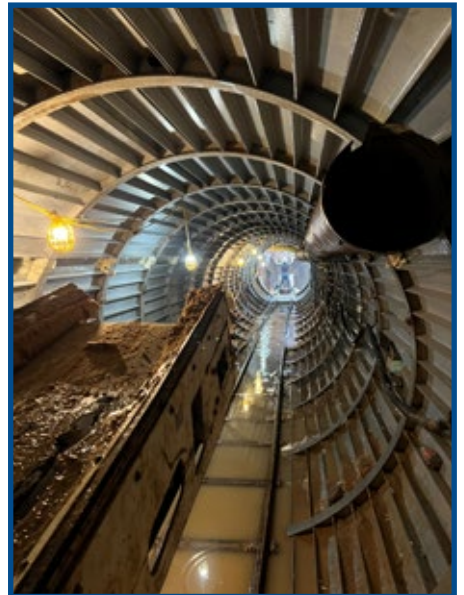
Up-to-date construction information is available online at [surfacewatersupplyproject.com](http://surfacewatersupplyproject.com).



B1



B1-B2 290 Tunnel looking West



B1-B2 Clara Rd. Tunnel



B3 Building Tunnel Rings



B3 Conveyor Within Tunnel



B3 Shaft at Site 2



B1-B2 Clara Rd. Shaft

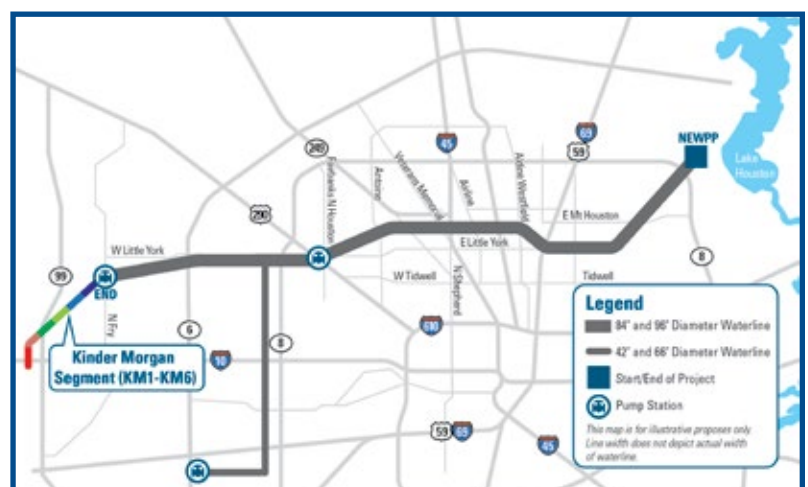


B3 Shaft at Site 2

## Kinder Morgan (KM)

The Kinder Morgan is a 66-inch welded steel water line running along a Kinder Morgan pipeline corridor. The project was divided into six segments (KM1 – KM6) for construction. Currently, the Kinder Morgan segment is on hold.

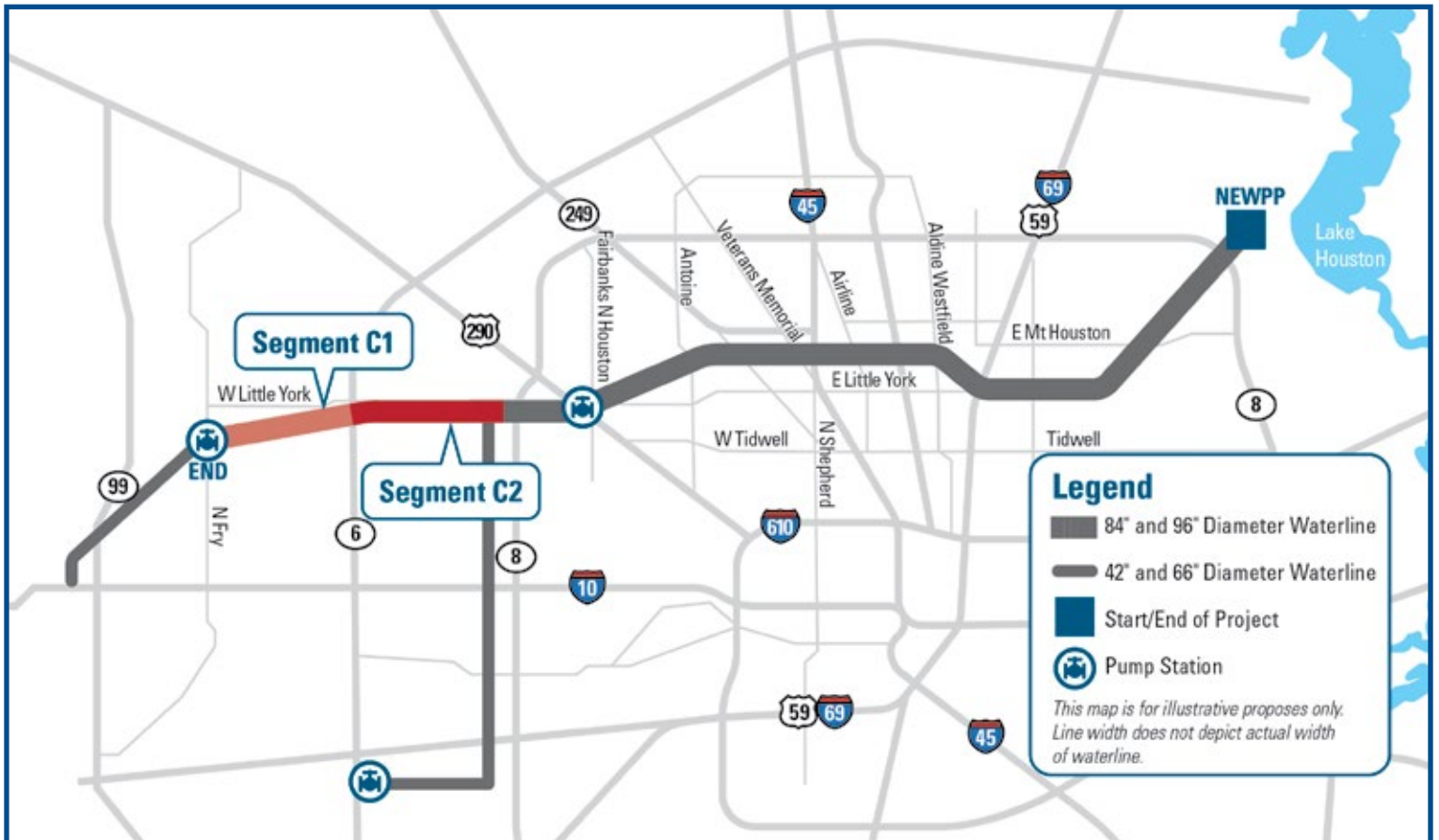
Up-to-date construction information is available online at [surfacewatersupplyproject.com](http://surfacewatersupplyproject.com).



# Segment C

Segment C is divided into two segments, C1 and C2, for construction. Construction of these segments began in early 2021, and both are near completion.

Up-to-date construction information is available online at [surfacewatersupplyproject.com](http://surfacewatersupplyproject.com).



*C1 Butterfly valve vault hatch poured*



*C1 Butterfly valve vault hatch poured*



*C1 Install new resident fences and gates*



C2 Prepping site



C2 Waterline corridor

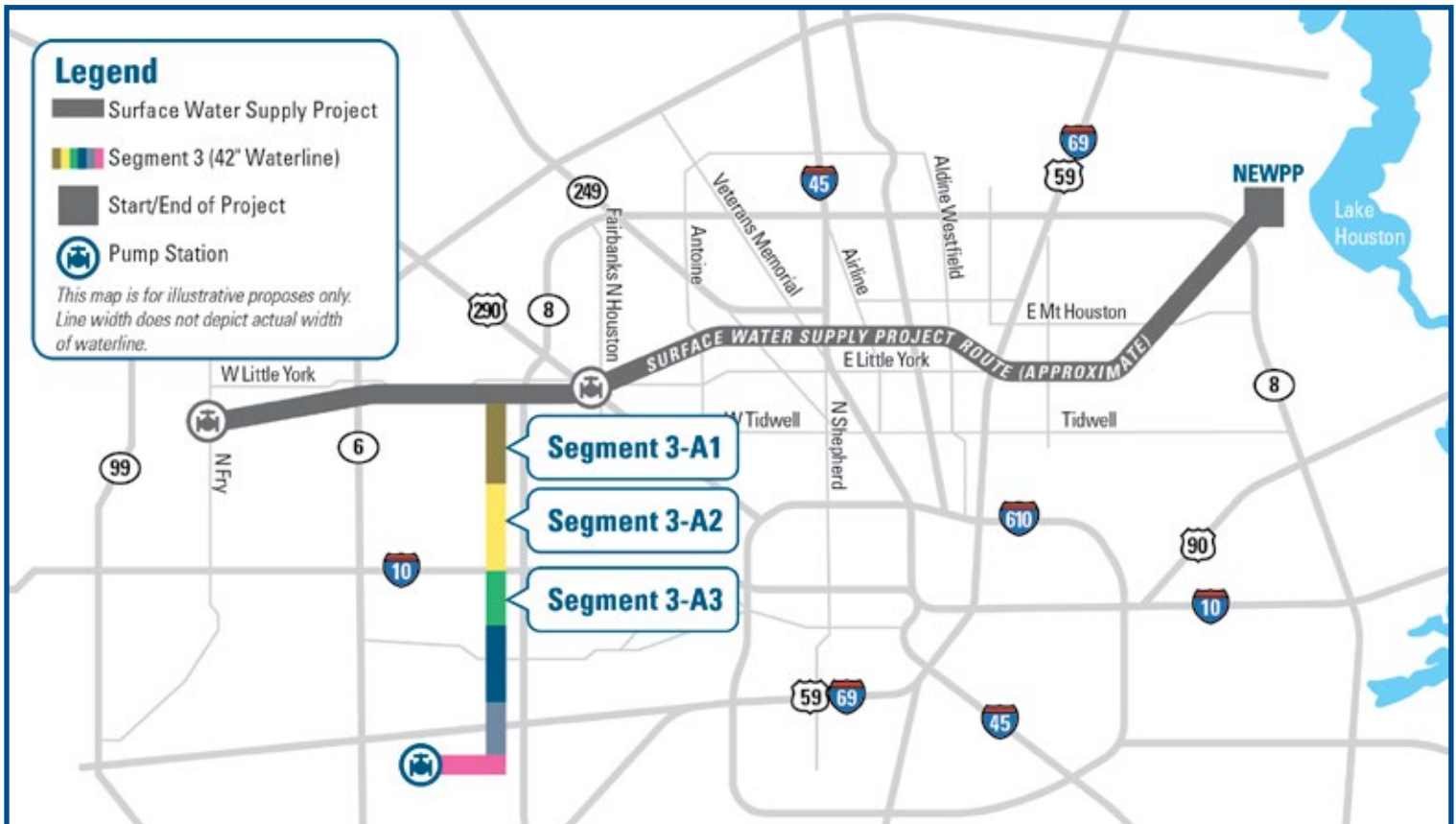


C2 Waterline open cut through Jamestown Colony

## Segment 3

Segment 3 is divided in six segments (A1 – A5 & B1). Segments 3-A1, 3-A2, and 3-A3 have been awarded and are currently under construction. Segment 3-A4 is complete and Segments 3-A5 and B1 are obtaining environmental clearance before finalizing design.

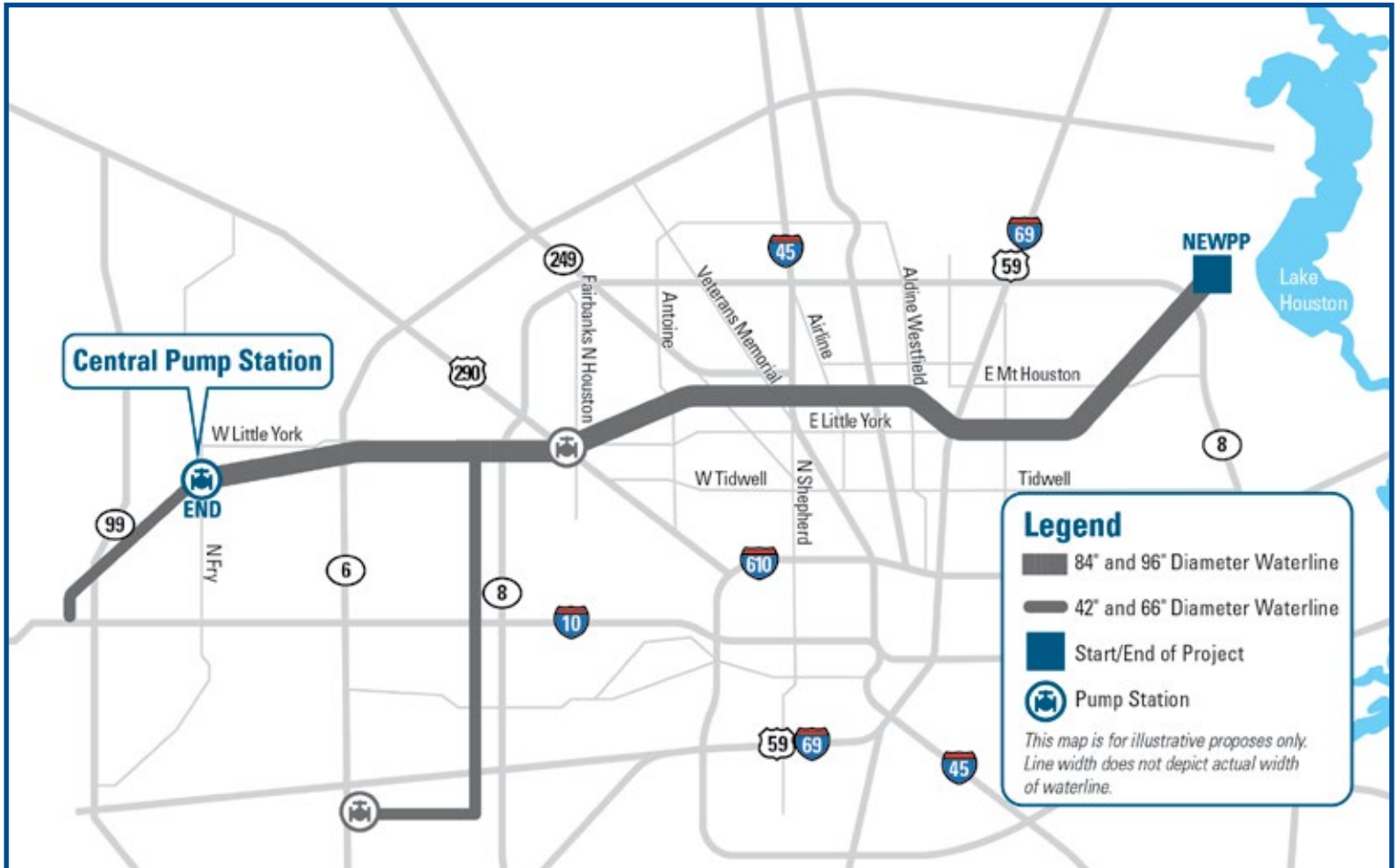
Up-to-date construction information is available online at [surfacewatersupplyproject.com](http://surfacewatersupplyproject.com).



# Central Pump Station

The Central Pump Station is one of two pump stations in the SWSP. The Central Pump Station was awarded in late fall 2022. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2023.

Up-to-date construction information is available online at [surfacewatersupplyproject.com](http://surfacewatersupplyproject.com).



*CPS Construction entrance and clearing operations*



*CPS Silt fence along existing pipeline corridor*



*CPS Silt fence along mountain forest*



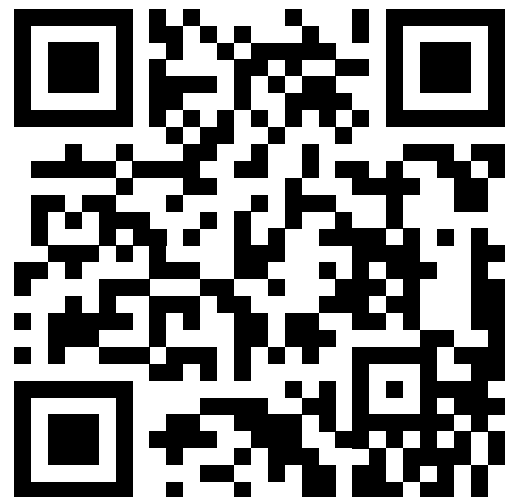


*Rendering of the WHCRWA Central Pump Station*

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All schedule information included in this newsletter are subject to change, pending design, coordination, and contracting timeframes. Updated construction schedule information will be made available online at [www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com/construction](http://www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com/construction).

The SWSP Team provides multiple opportunities for you to receive information about the project. If you have questions about the SWSP call the hotline at 1-844-638-SWSP (7977) for updates or email the team at [info@surfacewatersupplyproject.com](mailto:info@surfacewatersupplyproject.com).



# SWSP in the Community

## Bridgeland 14th Annual Nature Fest

On October 29, 2022, the WHCRWA and SWSP Team was invited by MUD 419 to attend the Bridgeland 14th Annual Nature Fest and provide information about the WHCRWA and SWSP. The SWSP Outreach Team answered questions about the ongoing SWSP construction and the WHCRWA water fees. In addition, everyone that visited the booth was provided with brochures and flyers with more information and “goodie bags” with WHCRWA branded items.

If you would like for the SWSP/WHCRWA Project Team to make a presentation to your local organization (either in-person or virtually), give us a call at 1-844-638-SWSP (7977) or email us at [info@surfacewatersupplyproject.com](mailto:info@surfacewatersupplyproject.com).



# SWSP Segment B Tunnel Boring Machine Open House



In preparation for the construction of Segment B the SWSP and WHCRWA Team for Segment B organized an open house on October 11, 2022, to provide an opportunity for the project team to “meet” one of the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) for this segment. Segments B1, B2 and B3 will use a variety of TBMs to excavate the planned tunnels throughout the segments.



Did you know it is traditional to name tunnel boring machines before they are launched, and it is a long-held tradition to give them a female name for good luck during construction?



To continue this common practice and to honor key members of the SWSP, the SWSP Team named each of the TBMs prior to starting work on the project. One of the TBMs for Segments B1 and B2 was named “Suzzann” in honor of the WHCRWA’s prior board president, Bruce Parker’s wife. The TBM for Segment B3 was named “Sheryl” after Sheryl Bookman, who was a crucial part of the SWSP Team to make this project possible.



# Two Types of Construction

There are two types of waterline construction utilized on the Surface Water Supply Project, open cut and tunneling.

## Open cut



Open-cut construction involves excavating a trench from the surface, completing work within the trench, and then backfilling to restore the surface to pre-construction conditions.

## Tunneling



Tunneling involves excavating and installing the pipeline through an underground tunnel, while leaving the surface comparably undisturbed.

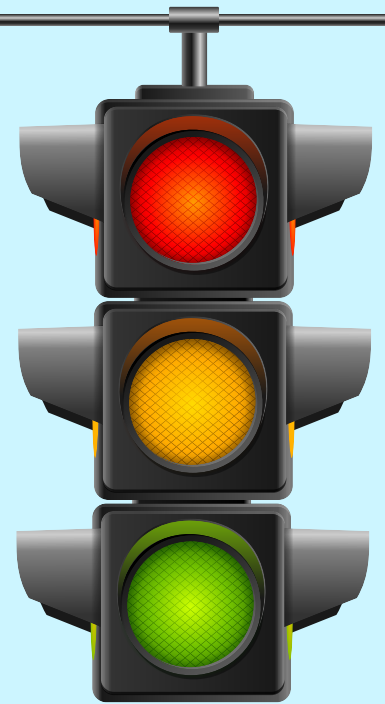
# Traffic Impacts

During construction, communities may notice road closures or traffic impacts associated with the ongoing construction of Segment C. The WHCRWA is committed to ensuring that construction impacts are minimized whenever possible. For updated road and lane closure information and other related resources, please visit our website dedicated to traffic updates:

[www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com/traffic](http://www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com/traffic)

# Project Safety

Safety is a key consideration for the Surface Water Supply Project Team, as contractors will be required to maintain safe job sites with regular facility and property inspections along the corridor. As necessary, contractors will be required to repair damaged roadways 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 any necessary road closures, identify and proactively communicate appropriate detours, and phase construction to minimize disruptions.



# Funding for the Surface Water Supply Project

This project 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 (TWDB) through a state-wide program for financing water projects. The total project costs are estimated to be more than \$1 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 water authority's sale of surface water to their customers and pumpage fees charged on well water pumped within the water authorities. No residents outside of the water authorities' groundwater reduction plan will pay for the Surface Water Supply Project.



# FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How was the alignment chosen for the Surface Water Supply Project?

The WHCRWA negotiated with the City of Houston to purchase additional surface water. The agreement between the City and the WHCRWA stipulates that the water must originate at the City of Houston Northeast Water Purification Plant, thereby excluding other regional surface water sources. To deliver the water from the required source, the WHCRWA took great care to choose a route that considers area residents, businesses, and existing infrastructure. The WHCRWA spent years researching and refining the route and worked with elected officials to choose the most cost-effective alignment with the least impacts to the community as a whole.

### How many waterline segments will be constructed?

The project is currently in the final stage of design and is anticipated to be constructed in multiple segments, as determined by approved construction areas. The number of construction segments, as well as tentative construction timelines for each segment, is still under development.



## How long will construction take in my area?

Although construction of the project is slated to occur from 2020 to 2026, no specific area is expected to be impacted for the entire four-year period. For updates regarding construction schedules, please visit [www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com/construction](http://www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com/construction).

## Are there any delays or detours expected during construction?

During construction, residents, business owners, and anyone traveling in the vicinity of the project alignment may experience detours, access issues, and other construction activities associated with large-scale linear projects. To minimize these impacts, the majority of the pipeline will be installed within existing pipeline corridors.

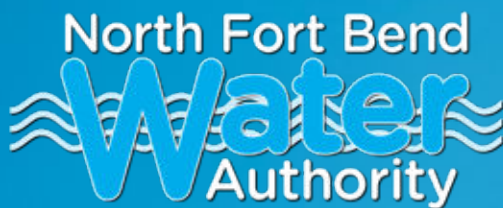
The public's safety, ease of access, and well-marked detour information will be the priority throughout the life of the project. The WHCRWA is committed to communicating proactively and continuously with the public about this project.

## How will you restrict access to the construction areas?

Contractors will be required to maintain safe and secure job sites, meaning that access to construction sites will be restricted. In areas where tunneling is required, the tunnel shafts must remain open; however, construction fencing will restrict access to the area surrounding tunnel shafts.



Follow our progress as we continue to ensure reliable, long-term water supplies for west Harris County and north Fort Bend County residents.



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