

February 24, 2010
Clear Lake City Water Authority

The Clear Lake City Water Authority was created May 6, 1963, to provide, operate, and maintain a potable water supply, water storage and distribution system, sanitary sewer collection and conveyance system, wastewater treatment plant, and storm water system. To accomplish this, CLCWA installs, repairs, upgrades, and maintains this vast system and multiple facilities. CLCWA serves a population of approximately 84,000 in five cities. The service area encompasses about 16,000 acres and fire protection includes roughly 2,000 fire hydrants.

Infrastructure

In the late 1990's, the CLCWA began a program to evaluate and determine the useful life of the various components of its infrastructure. The intent was to initiate an ongoing annual capital improvement program to ensure that our infrastructure is inspected, repaired, replaced or enhanced in order to maintain a first-class system and to spread those costs as evenly as possible over the long term. Many areas of the district's sanitary and storm sewer lines were televised and rehabilitated to comply with this regulation.

Drainage Policy

In September of 2005, the CLCWA Board of Directors passed a policy regarding drainage and flood control for new development. The policy was prepared to provide detailed criteria for the drainage and flood control facilities in the boundaries of the CLCWA. The purpose of this drainage and flood control policy is to ensure that new development or redevelopment occurring within the jurisdiction of the CLCWA provides appropriate mitigation measures so that storm drainage from the new development (including redevelopment) will not adversely impact existing conditions. It is the policy of CLCWA, as it relates to storm drainage and flood control, that all new developments within the Authority's boundaries fully mitigate any increases in runoff rates and volumes such that no new flood risk is created nor any existing flood potential increased. This policy is consistent with the policies and intent of Harris County and the City of Houston.

Past five years, improvements:

- Improvements to the Water Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and security systems were made. A SCADA system was incorporated into the water and sewerage systems in the early 1990's. The SCADA allows the monitoring and control of the water and sewer systems from a remote location. This is especially critical during catastrophic weather events or emergency situations.
- Water and sanitary sewer extensions were installed to serve Space Center Boulevard. Water Plant ground storage tanks (interior and exterior) were recoated.
- CLCWA shared in the improvements and upgrades to the City of Houston Southeast Water Purification Plant, since CLCWA owns interest and purchases water from this plant on Genoa Red Bluff Road.
- Seven sewage lift stations were upgraded. Drainage Ditch P was rehabilitated. Improvements were made to Elevated Storage Tanks, a Water Plant, and two Lift Stations.

Current projects:

- Sanitary Sewer Phase 45 televising is underway in Taylor Lake Estates.
- The ground storage tank (GST) at one of the water well sites will be replaced.
- Water SCADA System Phase 2 Replacement.
- Sanitary Sewer Phase 39 on Bay Area Blvd.
- Storm Sewer Phase 13 in Clear Lake Forest.
- One of the elevated storage tanks is being recoated.
- Sixteen lift stations are going through a SCADA System upgrade.
- The screen grinder at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is being replaced.
- The Water Line Crossing at Cow Bayou at El Camino Real is currently underway.

Future projects:

- Recoating of the two ground storage tanks at a water plant (interior and exterior).
- Sanitary Sewer Televising and Rehab Phases 40 through 44.
- Storm Sewer Phases 17 and 18 will be conducted through various portions of the Water Authority.
- One of the lift stations will be upgraded and the sanitary sewer line running under Mud Lake will be replaced with a larger force main.
- The force main line in Timber Cove will be enlarged to better serve the eastern portion of the district.
- CLCWA will be installing additional permanent generators and purchasing additional trailer mounted generators and pumps to improve emergency operations during adverse weather events or emergency conditions.

Impact Fees

After a review of the development plans for the remaining undeveloped land within the boundaries of the CLCWA over the next 10 years and the resulting impact which that development would have on the Authority's infrastructure, a study was conducted to determine the possible implementation of an impact fee. An impact fee is a charge or assessment imposed by a political subdivision for new development in order to generate revenue for funding or recouping the cost of capital improvements for facility expansions necessitated by and attributable to the new development. The study reviewed the projected development plans and created a capital improvement and facility expansion plan to accommodate the new development.