

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council Members
Steve Parker, City Manager

From: Timothy J. Howe, Director – Water / Wastewater Utilities

Through: Rick Cortes, Assistant City Manager

Subject: Decommissioning the Walnut Branch Wastewater Treatment Plant / Expanding Geronimo Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Date: June 23, 2020

The attached resolution authorizes staff to create a project that will decommission the Walnut Branch Wastewater Treatment Plant (WBWWTP) and convey flow to treat all sewage at the Geronimo Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (GCWWTP). Decommissioning the WBWWTP will require the design and construction of a new raw sewage pump station at the existing site to pump the sewage to the GCWWTP. Two raw sewage force mains will be designed and constructed to convey the flow from the new pump station. The current expansion project underway at GCWWTP will be increased from the previously approved 5.54 million gallons per day (MGD) to 12 MGD. Lastly, all existing structures associated with current WBWWTP process will be demolished.

TRC Engineers, Inc. conducted a feasibility evaluation of this project and provided an opinion of probable construction cost using Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) funding at \$183,769,179. The cost of the project includes engineering services, services for funding assistance to manage the TWDB process, construction, bidding / construction administration, and continuous construction inspection. However, the project does not include pumping and piping necessary to continue the City's reuse water program. To continue the reuse water program, the cost of the project would increase \$10,072,567. The City recognizes the advantages of a reuse water system and, at the direction of the City's Utility Committee, is in discussion with the City's sole reuse customer. These discussions include, but are not limited to an option to replace the volume of reuse water with treated surface water from the Seguin Water Plant.

The advantages of decommissioning the WBWWTP located less than half a mile south of town square are many. It will eliminate inherent odors associated with the wastewater treatment process, eliminate safety risks associated with chemicals as part of the disinfection and de-chlorination process required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and it will eliminate the flood risk that currently exists at WBWWTP. The City will also realize operational efficiencies operating one treatment facility versus two.

Funding for this project is pursued through TWDB Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Staff recommends Council authorize the creation of this project in the amount of \$183,769,179.00 as detailed above and will be available to answer any questions at the Tuesday, July 7, 2020 City Council meeting.