

***THE
WIMBERLEY
WASTEWATER
PROJECT***

**CHARTING THE COURSE FOR
A COMMUNITY'S FUTURE**

Background

- Wimberley is a small Texas Hill Country community that recently incorporated as a city in May 2000
- Wimberley is located in Hays County -- one of the fastest growing counties in the United States -- and features an economy that is largely tourist based

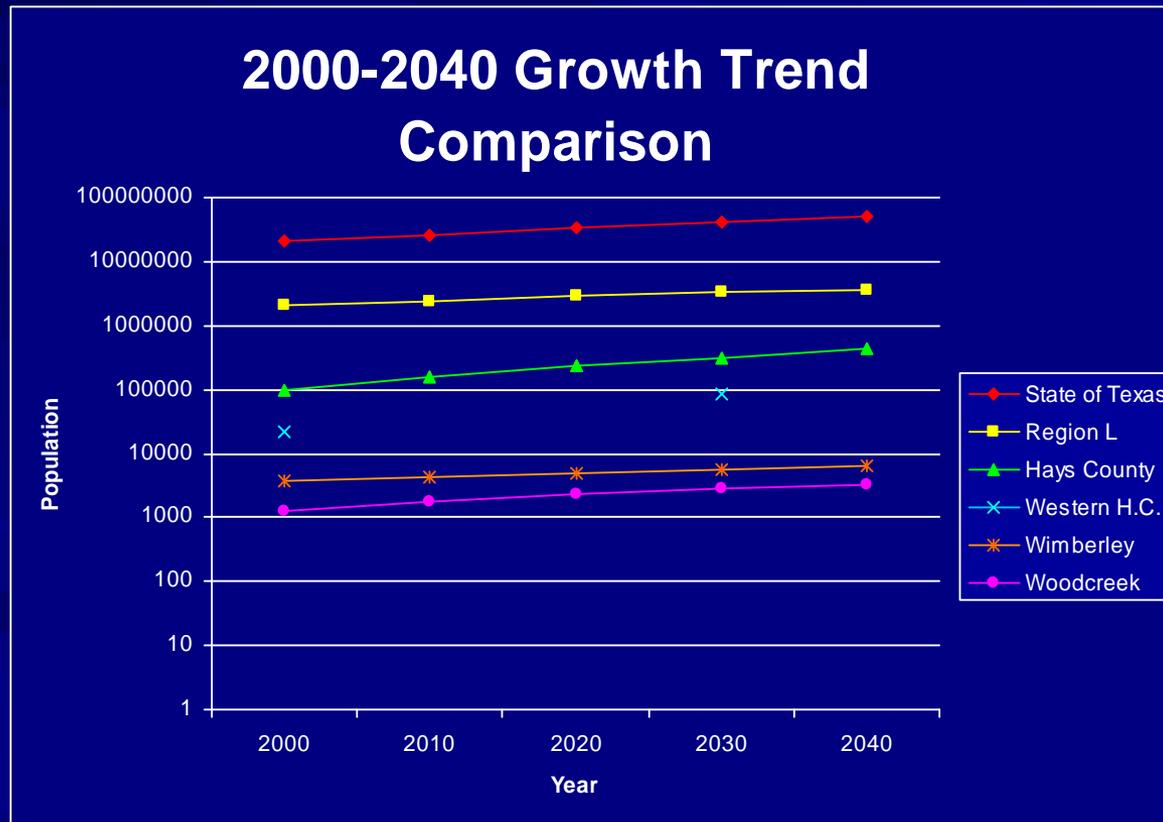
Background

■ In addition to its scenic vistas, Wimberley is home to the Blanco River and Cypress Creek which make this community one of the most beautiful, and environmentally sensitive areas in the Hill Country

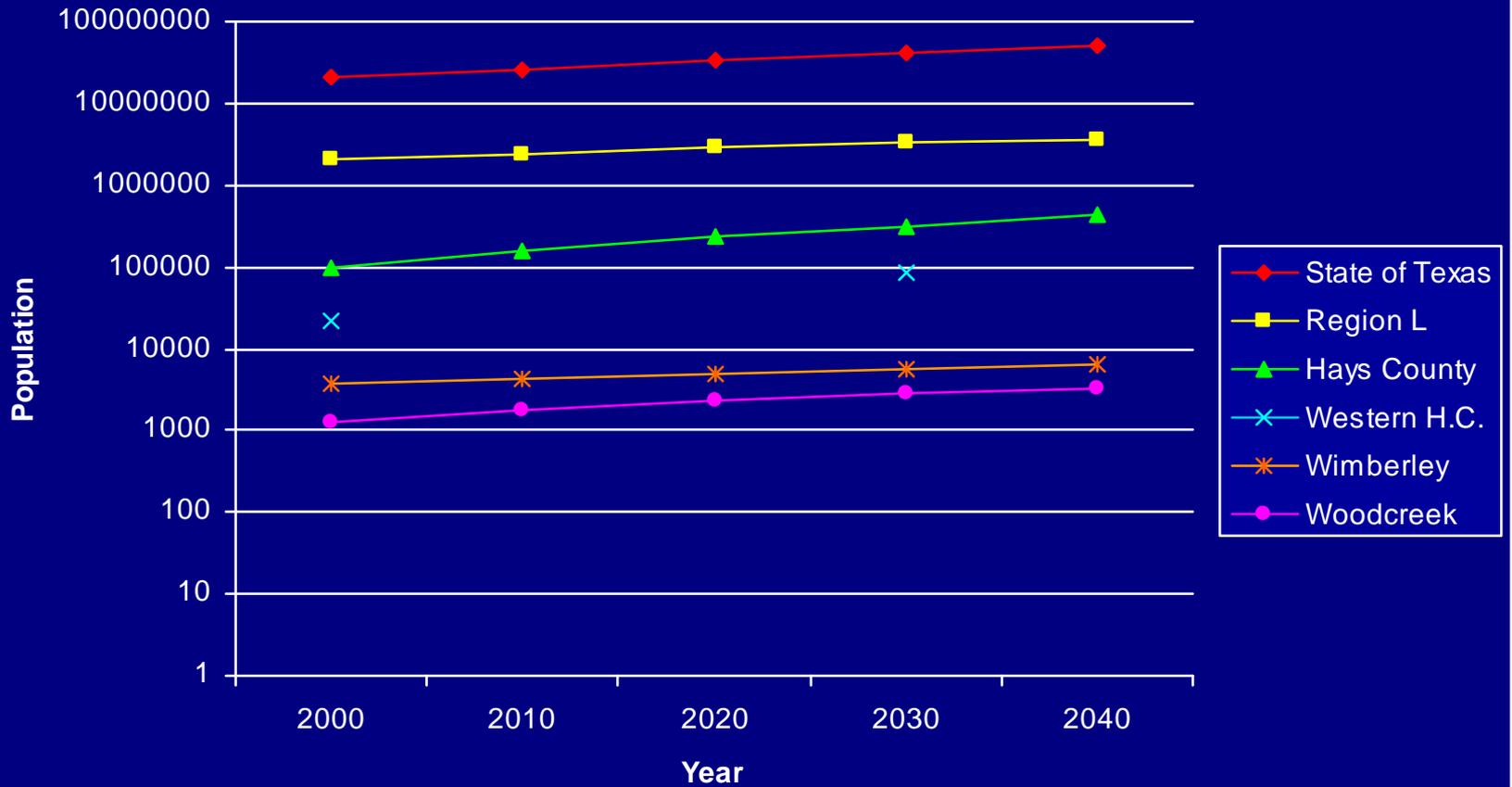


Background

- Growth has, and will continue to place significant demands and stresses on the City's infrastructure and natural resources



2000-2040 Growth Trend Comparison



Background

- Growth has placed significant demands on limited local groundwater supplies

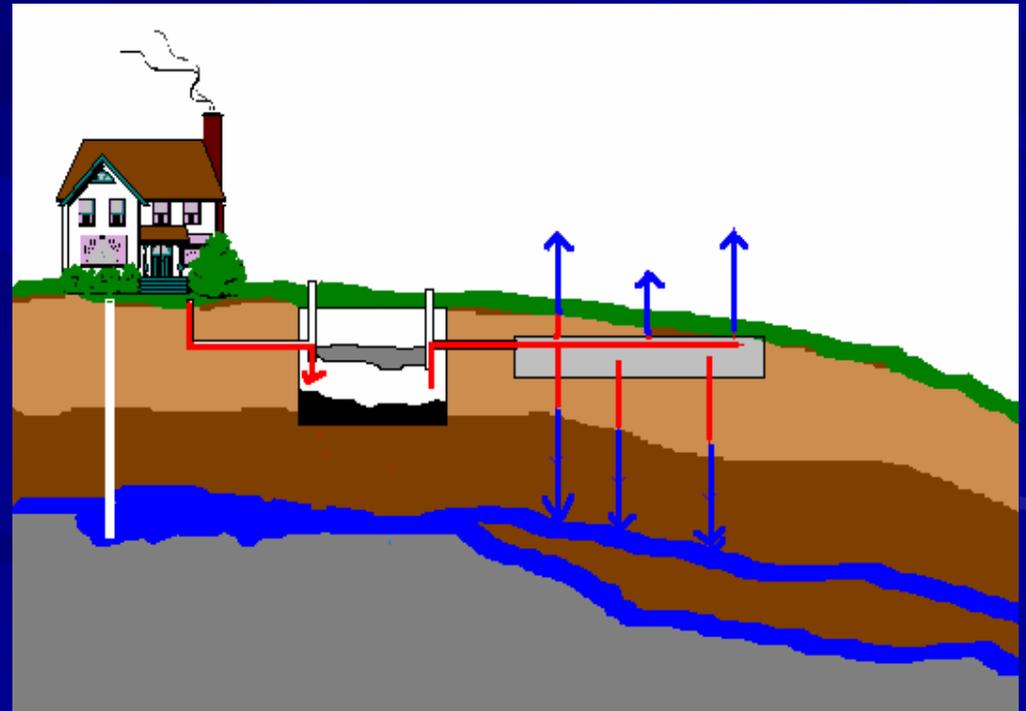


Background

- Wastewater service is only available to a limited number of properties in the City
 - *Aqua Texas provides wastewater service to a handful of customers along Ranch Road 12 and FM 2325, north of the Cypress Creek*
 - *Deer Creek Rehabilitation Center is served by a small non-compliant, single customer, wastewater treatment plant owned by the City of Wimberley, operated by the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, and located on the Blue Hole Regional Park site*

Background

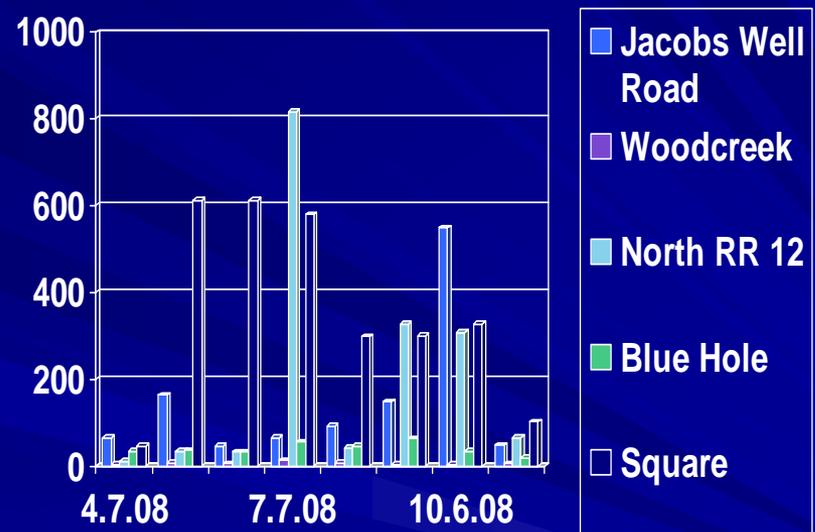
- Wimberley relies, largely, on individual septic systems to meet its wastewater treatment needs



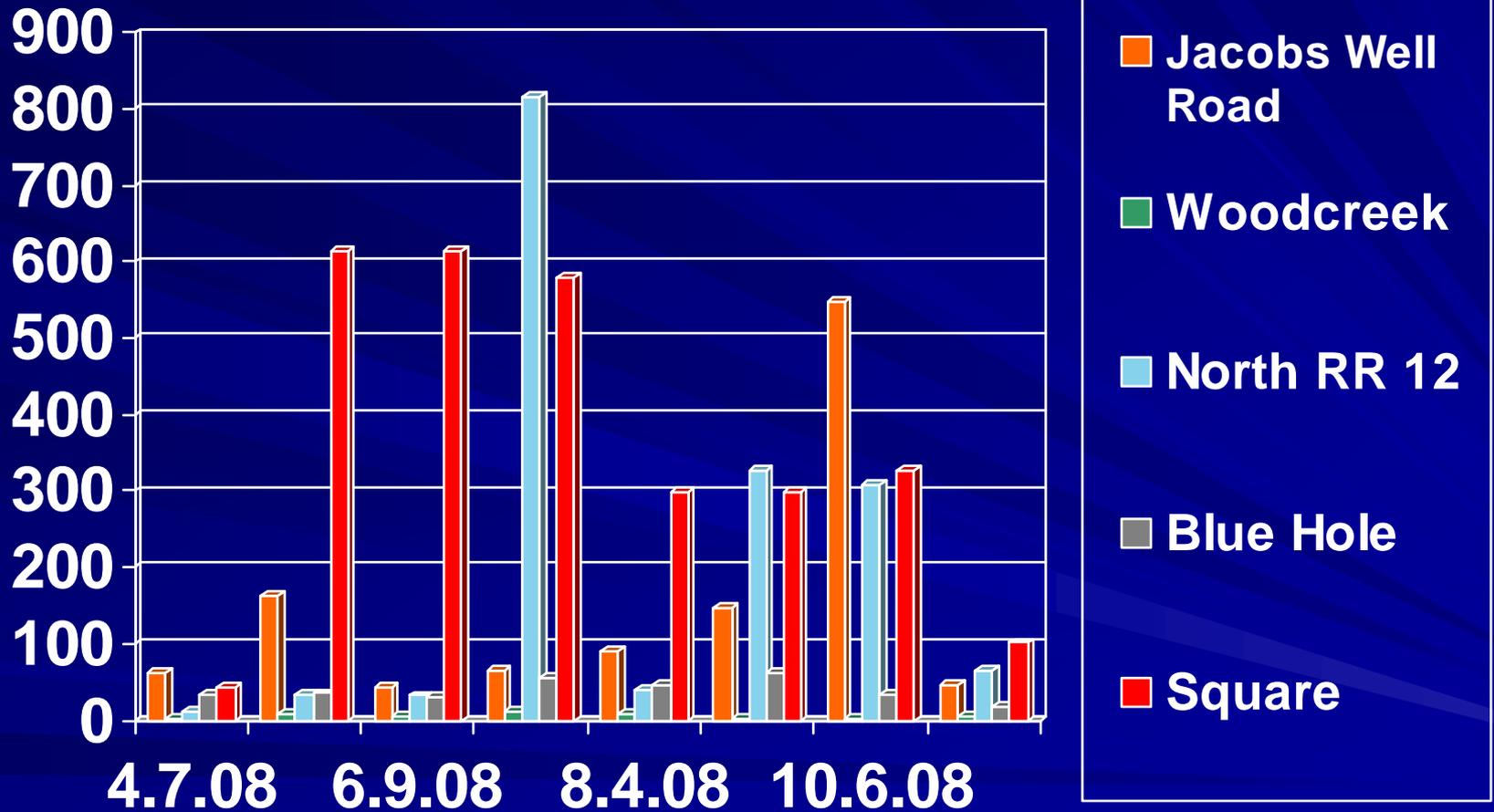
The Problem

- Recently, elevated *E. coli* and fecal coliform bacteria levels have been detected in our local waterways, particularly in Cypress Creek, which winds through the city's central business district

2008 Cypress Creek Water Tests



2008 Cypress Creek Water Tests

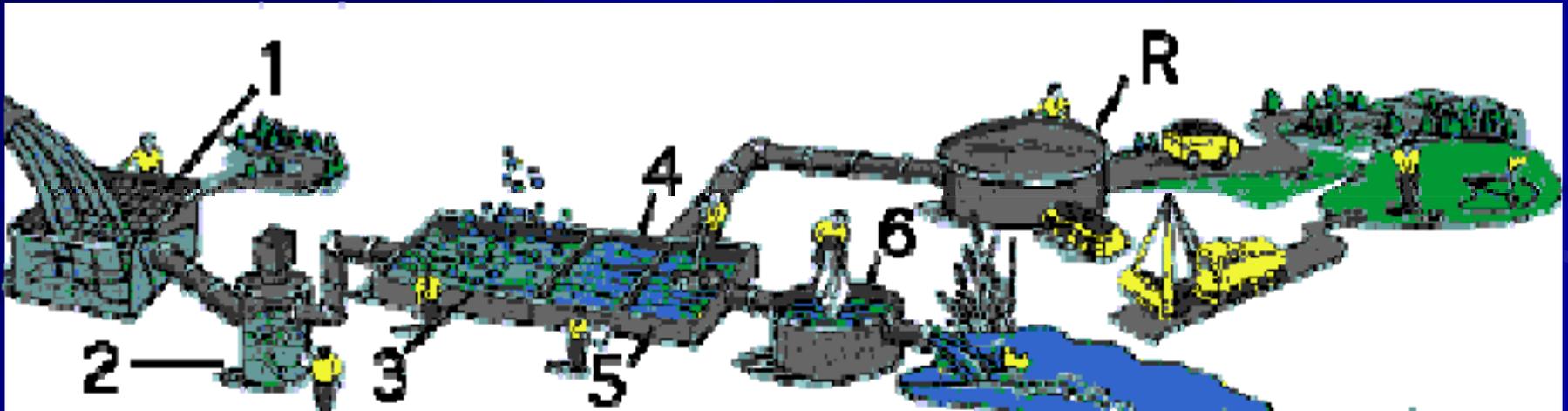


The Problem

- One source of pollutants is believed to be failing septic systems on certain business properties which line the creek
- Many of the subject property owners do not have the financial means or the land necessary to bring their septic systems into compliance with environmental regulations

The Solution

- The solution to these significant environmental and economic concerns is the development of a centralized wastewater treatment system



The Solution

- Such a system would eliminate the need for septic systems in the area of the Square
- Such a system would protect the waters of Cypress Creek and the Blanco River while preserving existing businesses and facilitating future economic development in Wimberley

Project Timeline

■ 2002

- *Recognizing the need for wastewater service, the City of Wimberley entered into an agreement with GBRA to develop and operate centralized wastewater system*
- *The boundaries of a service area for the planned wastewater system, also known as a CCN, were established and approved by the State of Texas*

Project Timeline

■ 2005

- Studies were done to determine the fees to be charged to customers who desire to connect to a centralized wastewater system

■ 2006

- *The City of Wimberley issued a call for applications from downtown businesses interested in connecting to a wastewater system*

Project Timeline

■ 2007

- *The collection of connection fees from prospective customers began before a decision was made to halt the process and move forward with a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to determine a more accurate estimated cost of the system for customers*
- *Consultant was hired to prepare a Wimberley Wastewater System PER*

Project Timeline

■ 2007

- *Alan Plummer Associates completed a draft of the Preliminary Engineering Report which analyzed the options available for providing wastewater service and the detailed cost of doing so*
- *City Council was briefed on the results of the draft PER*

PER Overview

- Examined the methods of treatment
 - *Extended Aeration Activated Sludge Plant*
 - *Membrane Biological Reactor Type Plant*
- Examined effluent disposal options
 - *Discharge into surface water (studied but not recommended)*
 - *Spray irrigation*
 - *Subsurface Drip Irrigation*
- Examined Collection System Routing

Project Implementation Plan

■ Phase 1

- Construct a new wastewater treatment plant on the northeast corner of the Blue Hole site or along Winter's Mill Parkway.
- Such a plant would serve the immediate downtown area, Deer Creek, and possible development along Winter's Mill Parkway.
- Estimated wastewater flows would range from 40,000 gallons per day for the downtown area to 190,000 gallons per day for downtown and the possible Parkway development

Phase 1

– Option A

- Immediate Downtown area and Deer Creek
- Plant at Blue Hole
- 40,000 GPD of wastewater
- Subsurface irrigation effluent disposal
- \$3.2 million (EAAS); \$3.8 million (MBR)

Phase 1

– Option B

- Immediate Downtown, Deer Creek and Parkway
- Plant at Blue Hole
- 190,000 GPD of wastewater
- Subsurface irrigation effluent disposal
- \$8.7 million (EAAS); \$9.9 million (MBR)

Phase 1

– Option C

- Immediate Downtown, Deer Creek and Parkway
- Plant at Parkway Site
- 190,000 GPD of wastewater
- Subsurface irrigation effluent disposal
- \$8.5 million (EAAS); \$9.7 million (MBR)

Phase 2

- Expand the wastewater system to serve the remainder of downtown businesses along Ranch Road 12, businesses and residences along FM 3237 and residences along Cypress Creek and the Blanco River south of Ranch Road 12
- Estimated additional wastewater flow of 90,000 gallons per day for the expanded downtown area to 240,000 gallons per day for downtown and the possible Parkway development

Phase 2

– Option A

- Expanded Downtown area and Deer Creek
- Plant at Blue Hole
- 90,000 GPD of wastewater
- Subsurface irrigation effluent disposal
- \$3.7 million (EAAS); \$4 million (MBR)

Phase 2

– Option B

- Expanded Downtown area, Deer Creek and Parkway
- Plant at Blue Hole
- 240,000 GPD of wastewater
- Subsurface irrigation effluent disposal
- \$3.7 million (EAAS); \$4 million (MBR)

Phase 2

– Option C

- Expanded Downtown area, Deer Creek and Parkway
- Plant at Parkway Site
- 240,000 GPD of wastewater
- Subsurface irrigation effluent disposal
- \$3.8 million (EAAS); \$4.1 million (MBR)

Phase 3

■ Phase 3

- Expand the service area to include the remainder of the approved service boundary with a large portion of the service area located south of the Blanco River
- More detailed study necessary relating to this phase to determine ultimate flows and costs

Project Funding Options

- Secure funding from soon to be available Federal Economic Stimulus Package and/or other federal sources
- Secure funding from Texas Water Development Board low interest loan program
- Implement local property tax to help secure long term debt financing for project

Work in Progress

- Finalization of the draft PER by GBRA, including an update of impact fees based on new cost estimates
- Submission of an application for funding from Texas Water Development Board
- Contacting Senators Hutchison and Cornyn, Congressman Doggett, Governor Perry, State Senator Wentworth and Representative Rose seeking support for state and federal funding assistance

How You Can Help!

- Voice your support for state and federal funding for the critically needed project
- Contact your elected representatives in Austin and Washington D.C. urging their support of the project
- Understand the critical situation facing our community and react in a positive fashion to make this wastewater package happen