



Central Wimberley Wastewater Project - Status Update

March 13, 2020

Prepared By: Shawn Cox, City Administrator

Construction

Lift Station (RR12 @ FM 3237)

Pump requirements have been provided from Plummer to Capital. Reviewing the specs, the pumps, motors and controls will be the same. The pump shaft speeds are the only required change to meet the new conditions. This can be accomplished using different sheaves (pulley used to connect the motor to the pump).

Based on the pumps, Capital has provided pump curve information to Plumer for review and confirmation of suction and discharge sizes to finalize the order. Total time to have the lift station operational is four to five months from the date the submittals are approved. The lift station is anticipated to be operational in July 2020.

Collection Lines

The schedule for the installation of the collection systems gravity lines is as follows:

- Line I (Oldham and Ranch Road 12): February 24 – March 24
- FM 3237: March 24 – April 24

The trencher required for digging through the rock near the lift station was delivered this week (week of March 9). Capital has been utilizing it to install the gravity lines between Rio Bonito and the lift station location.

To minimize the impact construction will have on Ranch Road 12 and to coordinate with the force main line along Ranch Road 12, installation of the gravity line on FM 3237 will begin before the installation of Line I (Oldham and Ranch Road 12). We are adjusting our schedule accordingly. We will be coordinating with all necessary property owners and we will make sure to provide traffic updates on our website and social media accounts.

Force Main Lines

The properties on Blue Hole Lane and the Deer Creek lift station will join into a force main line which will run down Blue Hole Lane to Old Kyle where it will connect to the gravity line on Old Kyle through a manhole. Installation of these line wills begin once the gravity lines have been installed (April/May 2020).

With the amended contract, Plummer has begun design of the remaining force main lines (shown in red on the attached "Collection System Map"). Previous designs of these lines are no longer able to be used. Concurrently, Plumer is engineering the lines south of the Cypress Creek while their surveyors are gathering the needed information north of the creek. Plummer is needing to verify the depth/location of a couple of waterline crossings in order to finalize the force main alignment. They expect to know Monday (March 16) if any adjustment is needed. The portion of the force main running along Ranch Road 12 will need to be reviewed and approved by TxDOT prior to construction.

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Coordination

The TWDB has been updated on our project status. The amended Plummer contract includes coordination with the TWDB for additions to the project not previously reviewed.

TxDOT

Connection to Cypress Creek Bridge

TxDOT has provided the needed plans for the Cypress Creek Bridge connection. Plummer is designing the connection based on TxDOT's plans.

Ranch Road 12 (Force Main)

While we know the line will be installed via directional drilling, and that the work will be done during the day, but will not require road closures, Wimberley's utilization TxDOT Right-of-Way (ROW) will require engineered plans be developed for TxDOT's review. Coordination with other utilities in the area will also be required. Plummer Associates, Inc. is scheduling their surveyors to begin coordination with these other utility providers.

The force main route being designed will carry the wastewater from our lift station up Ranch Road 12 to Blue Heron. The line will then run up Oak Drive to the Wimberley Square then to the Cypress Creek Bridge. From the bridge, the line will proceed along Ranch Road 12 to the HEB/Emergency Lane Lift Station. This route, identified in red on the attached "Collection System Map", is along public right-of-way (ROW) and will not require any additional easements. Capital Excavation is reviewing the possibility of running the force main up Henson, rather than Oak Dr. This will follow a gravity line route already installed. Utilization of Henson would eliminate the need to repave Oak Dr., which could provide a reduction in costs.

Contract

Wastewater Treatment Contract (Aqua Texas)

On Monday (March 9) the City provided Aqua with an updated version of the draft contract for review. The contract includes the information discussed at the January 30, 2020 meeting between Aqua's President, Bob Laughman, and the City. No comments have been received.

Design Contract

Council approved Amendment #6 to the original design contract with Plummer Associates, Inc. at their Regular Meeting on February 20. This amendment will complete the design of the force main line from the City's lift station at Ranch Road 12 & FM 3237 to Aqua's HEB/Emergency Lane Lift Station. Design is expected to take six (6) weeks to complete. Once complete we will be able to requests bids for construction should it be required. Capital Excavation will also review the design to see if the construction can be completed under our current contract while remaining under the 25% maximum increase allowed by the State.

Construction of the force main from the City's lift station to the Cypress Creek Bridge is expected to be completed by Capital Excavation, under our current contract. However, a change order may be required. Plummer has started the design of this section first. Concurrently, they have their surveyor out gathering the information needed for the portion north of the creek.

Communication

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

An updated list of frequently asked questions and answers is being put together. Previous lists focused on the construction of the plan and discharge. What we want to provide with this updated list are answers to the question our customers may have. Some we received already relate to rates, connection points, timing, etc. If there are specific questions you have please send them to me at scox@cityofwimberley.com so we can include them.

Property/Business Owners

Any property or business owners who would like to meet with the City, please reach out to me at scox@cityofwimberley.com. I am happy to provide an update on the status of the project.

As we did previously, the City and Capital Excavation will work with each property owner to determine the best location for their connection to the system. Historically, this involved going door to door to contact the resident or property owner. We will also utilize written notices to contact those we are unable to meet face to face. This will involve a notice at the property (typically on the front door) which will provide a time frame for construction and contact information for the contractors and City. If you think we may miss anyone, please have them contact me at scox@cityofwimberley.com. We will make sure they are included in the project's coordination.

Town Hall

A video of the Town Hall meeting held on January 30 can be found [here](#). Additionally, the slides from the presentation have been posted to the City's homepage, which can be found [here](#).

Other Items

Sewer Utility Rates

Building from the previous rate studies the City has undertaken, and utilizing the developed models and schedules, a new rate model is being developed internally. The model will make sure the rate schedule adopted is enough to cover the cost of operating the utility system (maintenance/administration costs/etc.), payment of debt, capital improvements (major repairs/improvements). A draft is anticipated to be ready for Council discussion in March.

Impact Fees

An "Impact Fee," per the Texas Local Government Code (Chapter 395.001(4)) is a "charge or assessment imposed by a political subdivision against new development in order to generate revenue for funding or recouping the costs of capital improvements or facility expansions necessitated by and attributable to the new development." This is a fee imposed to recover costs related to expanding a utility system in order to accommodate the new development(s).

The City, when it adopted its most current wastewater utility rates in 2017, included a “Capital Recovery Fee” of \$2,500 per each Living Unit Equivalent (LUE). A “Capital Recovery Fee” such as the one implemented by the City, is a fee assessed to recover costs a utility provider has fronted in order to install a utility system. The current fee established by the City only applies to customers initially connecting at the time the system is operational. It does not apply to customers already connected to the system (Deer Creek & Blue Hole) or new development starting after the system comes online. This is different than the “Impact Fee” defined above.

Based on the utilization of Aqua Texas to treat the wastewater produced, I am working with our City Engineer/Project manager and Plummer Engineering to determine if there is still a need to establish impact fees.

Utility Billing

Currently the City’s Financial Clerk sends out the utility bills for the City. There are only two (2) customers being billed. We are reviewing our current finance software and the modules it can accommodate to see if there is a solution for expanding our billing needs. We, along with the Wastewater Ad Hoc Advisory Committee have also looked at how this could be accomplished with the programs we have now. Options for Council consideration are anticipated to be reviewed at a Council Workshop in March (date is TBD).

Schedule

Construction		
Component	Start	Completion
Collection Lines (CO#4)	February 2020	July 17, 2020
- Gravity Lines (RR12)	February 2020	March 2020
- Gravity Lines (FM 3237)	March 2020	April 2020
- Force Main (Deer Creek/Blue Hole)	April/May 2020	TBD
- Lift Station	February/March 2020	July 2020
Collection Lines (Aqua Connection)	TBD	TBD
- Design Force Main	February 21, 2020	April 3, 2020
- Connection to Cypress Creek Bridge	TBD	TBD
- Force Main (RR12-Directional Drill)	TBD	TBD
- Tie in to HEB Lift Station	TBD	TBD
Contract		
Negotiate Aqua Contract	August 2018	February 2020
Other		
Update Sewer Utility Rates	January 2020	March 2020
Impact Fees	TBD	TBD
Utility Billing	January 2020	March/April 2020

Attachment(s)

- Collection System Map

