



Central Wimberley Wastewater Project - Status Update

May 15, 2020

Prepared By: Shawn Cox, City Administrator

Construction

Lift Station (RR12 @ FM 3237)

Capital has completed the trenching up to the lift station. The excavation drill, which will finish digging the shaft for the wet well, will be delivered in the next couple of weeks. Capital has submitted the lift station wet well order to its subcontractor, and it is currently in the process of being built off site. Once constructed, the wet well will then be delivered for installation at the intersection of Ranch Road 12 and FM 3237. Total time to have the lift station operational is four to five months. The lift station is anticipated to be operational in August 2020.

Collection Lines

Capital Excavation will begin work on Ranch Road 12 this weekend. Construction will be at night. The portion of Ranch Road 12 from Blue Heron to the intersection at FM 3237 will be closed to through traffic. Detour signage has been placed on Ranch Road 12 coming into town before the Winters Mill bypass and the Blanco River Bridge. Once the lines have been installed on Ranch Road 12, Capital will begin installation on FM 3237. This work will also be at night and will require traffic to be diverted. Completion of these lines (both Ranch Road 12 and FM 3237) is expected within two weeks. Capital will then begin work on Oldham. This will be completed during the day. The city has arranged for parking for anyone who is unable to access their driveway during this time.

Force Main Lines

Installation of the lateral lines along Blue Hole Lane will be completed today (May 15). Construction in Blue Hole Park will be postponed till August to comply with U.S. Fish and Wildlife guidelines. This change in schedule will keep construction from taking place during Golden Cheeked Warbler nesting season. Installation of the force main line along Ranch Road 12, from Blue Heron to the lift station at FM 3237 will be completed in conjunction with the gravity lines being installed.

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Coordination

The TWDB has been updated on our project status, and the amended Plummer Associates contract includes this coordination. Review of the plans is anticipated to be complete by May 29. Once completed, TWDB should release their Environmental Findings for a 30-day public review. Once this review is completed the TWDB will be able to issue a favorable Environmental Finding.

The TWDB reviewed the Wholesale Wastewater Agreement between the City and Aqua Texas. Their comments or suggestions were incorporated into the Agreement approved by the City Council at last night's (April 30) meeting. We will provide the TWDB a fully executed copy.

TxDOT

Review of Force Main Plans (South of Cypress Creek)

TxDOT has approved our design. Final approved and engineered stamped plans have been provided to Capital Excavation for construction.

Review of Plans North of Cypress Creek (Force Main & Connection to Bridge)

TxDOT has completed the initial review of the plans for connection to the Cypress Creek Bridge. TxDOT's Structures group and Bridge Division are working with Plummer to completing a load analysis for our proposal. This should be completed by TxDOT next week (week of May 17). The Plummer is also coordinating with Reed Smith about the alignment of the line at the "Y" intersection of Ranch Road 12 and FM 2325. Plan sheets are being reviewed by Mr. Smith ensure TxDOT has no issues with the proposed route. Once approved, profiles (designs) will be provided for approval.

Contract(s)

Wastewater Treatment Contract (Aqua Texas)

The City Council approved a Wholesale Wastewater Agreement with Aqua Texas at their meeting on Thursday, April 30. Mr. Laughman has signed the contract for Aqua and is send an original copy to the city. Once received, we will provide a copy the TWDB.

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 contracts 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.

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 telephonic Council Workshop has scheduled for May 26 to discuss the rates and assumptions utilized.

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 April (date is TBD).

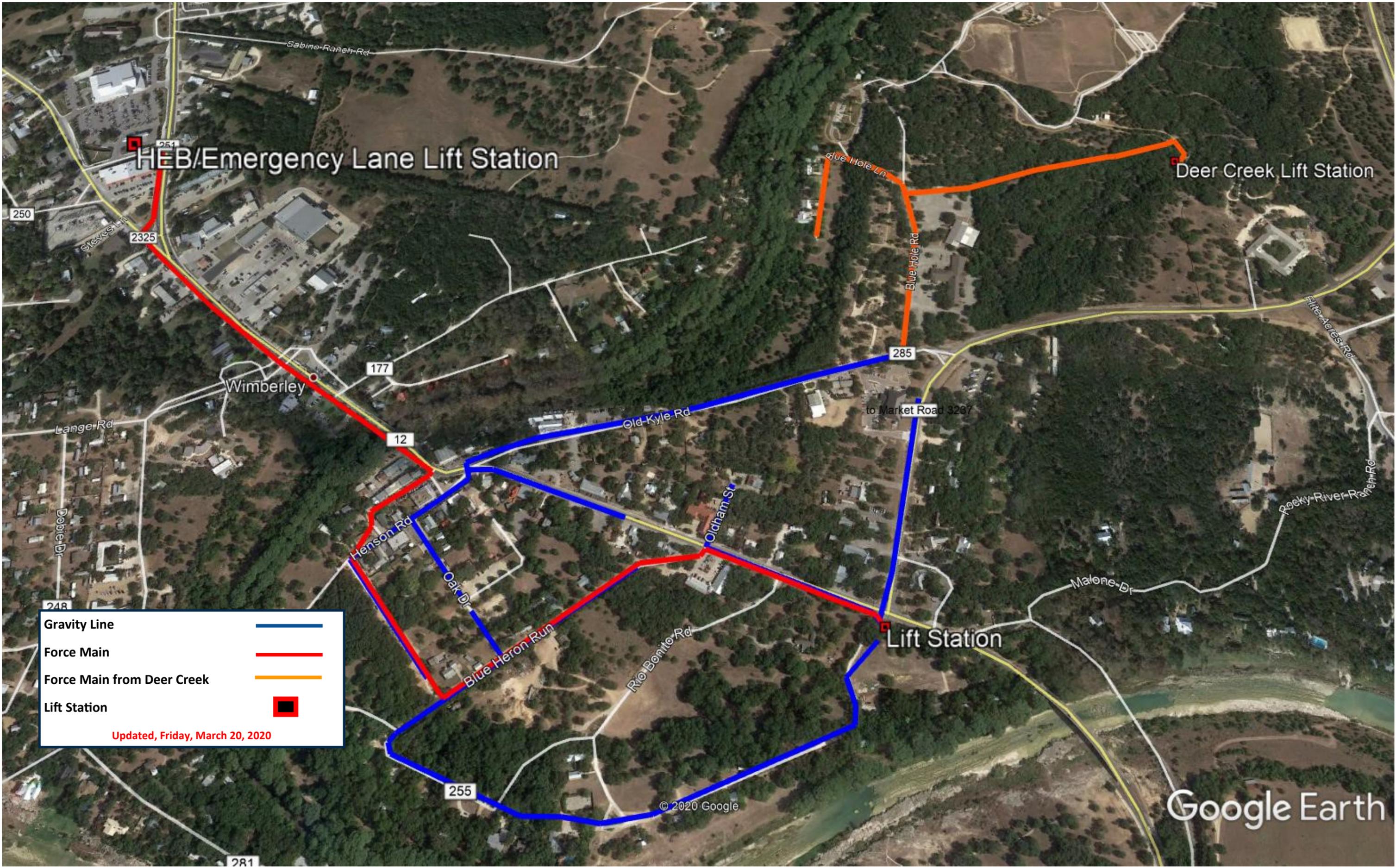
Schedule

An updated schedule chart has been put together by our Project Manager at Gilpin Engineering. Included in the chart is the construction schedule provided by Capital Excavation and the design/review schedule from Plummer Associates.

Construction		
<u>Component</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Completion</u>
Collection Lines (CO#4)	February 2020	August 2020
- Gravity Lines (RR12)	June 2020	July 2020
- Gravity Lines (FM 3237)	June 2020	July 2020
- Force Main (Deer Creek/Blue Hole)	May 2020	August 2020
- Lift Station	April 2020	August 2020
Collection Lines (Aqua Connection)	July 2020	October 2020
- Design Force Main	February 21, 2020	April 2020
- Connection to Cypress Creek Bridge	Pending Review from TxDOT	2-3 Weeks from Approval
- Force Main (RR12-Directional Drill)	Pending Review from TxDOT	2-3 Months from Awarded Contract
- Tie in to HEB Lift Station	Currently Being Designed	October 2020
Contract		
Negotiate Aqua Contract	August 2018	Completed April 2020
Other		
Update Sewer Utility Rates	January 2020	April 2020
Impact Fees	TBD	TBD
Utility Billing	January 2020	May 2020

Attachment(s)

- Collection System Map
- Wastewater Collection System Schedule



HEB/Emergency Lane Lift Station

Deer Creek Lift Station

Lift Station

Gravity Line	
Force Main	
Force Main from Deer Creek	
Lift Station	

Updated, Friday, March 20, 2020

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WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM SCHEDULE

