



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor and Council Members

**From:** Greg Meszaros, Director, Austin Water Utility

**Date:** May 27, 2011

**Subject:** Notification of Emergency Declaration to Repair Ullrich Raw Water Header

---

This is to inform you that I have authorized repairs to the Ullrich Water Treatment Plant Raw Water Header to proceed on an emergency basis. The repairs are expected to cost in the range of \$450,000 and may take several weeks to complete.

The Ullrich Water Treatment Plant raw water pump station discharge header was constructed in three phases in 1966, 1986, and 2003. The header is severely corroded, and leakage is evident at this and other locations. The deteriorated condition of components of the header system indicates susceptibility to failure. Such a failure would be dangerous and could cause further damage to the pump station, potentially resulting in an unanticipated shutdown of the Ullrich WTP.

The Austin Water Utility contracted with AECOM in April, 2011 to evaluate the header and define recommendations for repairs. AECOM evaluated constructability issues, isolation requirements, and schedule constraints, and calculated minimum acceptable remaining wall thicknesses for the header piping system components based on the working pressure and specified surge allowances. AECOM also furnished non-destructive testing to investigate the causes of leaks and to quantify remaining pipe material thicknesses in the header; non-destructive testing found that the header pipe wall thickness has deteriorated in certain areas, and is less than the minimum required thickness.

Based on this evaluation, AECOM provided recommendations for repairs of the header. Included in their assessment was a recommendation that a portion of the header was in such a deteriorated condition that the repair should be completed immediately. To minimize the risk of any failure, I am authorizing these repairs on an emergency basis.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please so let me know.

Greg Meszaros, Director  
Austin Water Utility

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Rudy Garza, Assistant City Manager