



City of Austin
 Water Treatment Plant 4 Project
 Public Involvement Office
 8401 Shoal Creek Blvd.
 Austin, Texas 78757
 Visit our web site at
<http://www.austinwater.org/wtp4>

PRST STD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 AUSTIN, TEXAS
 PERMIT NO. 2537



Winter 2011
 Volume 6, Issue 1
info@wtpfour.com
 512-498-9874



NEWS FOR NEIGHBORS

City Plans Construction of Electrical Conduit Duct Bank for Pump Station

The WTP4 project team is meeting with nearby neighbors and businesses to share information and gather input regarding the design and construction of a proposed underground electrical conduit duct bank that will convey power and communications from the plant to the raw water pump station. An electrical conduit duct bank is an underground concrete channel used for protection and routing of electrical wiring. Construction of the conduit would potentially impact Bullick Hollow Road during nighttime and early morning hours.

Project Manager Jason Bybel said his team is taking all feedback into consideration and is researching options to address issues and concerns voiced by the public. Concerns identified to date include potential traffic delays, road closures, driving conditions on the weekdays and weekends, the project timeline and impact on the road from the excavation of the raw water system (which begins in March 2011). Bybel said public outreach efforts will continue to ensure coordination with the surrounding community.



Jason Bybel explains duct bank details to Volente Council.

The City is working to schedule a traffic study in the next few weeks to establish a baseline traffic count for eastbound and westbound traffic along Bullick Hollow Road.

The traffic study would help determine the construction schedule. The City would like to construct the conduit at night, setting up a detour via Oasis Bluff to Comanche Trail for those who might use the roadway during the evening and early morning hours. The full road would be open during the daytime and weekends.

The conduit would be constructed beginning in fall/winter 2011 in the Bullick Hollow Road right of way between RM 620 and Oasis Bluff Drive and would

take approximately six months to construct, providing the weather cooperates and unforeseen construction delays do not occur.

The construction would not take place until the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) finishes its construction on FM 2769 in September. FM 2769 and Bullick Hollow Road are primary access roads for the Village of Volente, and are also used by Cedar Park and Leander residents on their way to Austin. Bullick Hollow Road is a Travis County roadway, and is surrounded by future Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) properties and private preserve lands that prohibit overhead line construction. It is also a BCP infrastructure corridor (read

more about BCP at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildland/bcp.htm>).

“We are in the very early stages of design so there is time to work on solutions for the concerns that people have,” said Bybel. “The project is essential to the operation of the raw water pump station and we definitely want to minimize disruption to the public as much as possible.”

The presentations made to the Village of Volente Council and Volente Neighborhood Association can be found at <http://www.austinwater.org/wtp4>, Education and Outreach Page -- Presentations.

(Please see invitation to the March 29 Open House on page 4)

Upcoming Open House Event:

An Open House has been scheduled to share WTP4 updates and the final design of the Jollyville water transmission main, and collect feedback from the community. Please attend the event anytime between 4 and 8 p.m. There will be no formal presentation and light refreshments will be provided.

Tuesday, March 29, 2011
From 4 to 8 p.m.
 BALCONES COUNTRY CLUB
 8600 Balcones Club Drive
 Austin, Texas 78750

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please email questions and comments about WTP 4 or the Jollyville water transmission main project to info@wtpfour.com or call us at **498-9874**. This newsletter is mailed and emailed to stakeholders.

If you or someone you know wants to receive this information electronically, please subscribe by emailing us at info@wtpfour.com.

Visit our web site at
<http://www.austinwater.org/wtp4>

WTP4 Attracts Green Thumbs

Thanks to the Austin Water Utility (AWU) and the Native Plant Society's Austin chapter, hundreds of native plants relocated from the WTP4 site in December are putting down roots in parks and landscapes all over the region.

The plants found new homes because the AWU set aside two days in December for community volunteers to harvest as many plants as possible before the property at RM 620 and Bullick Hollow Road is cleared for construction of the main administration building.

Even an alligator lizard inhabits new woodland now. AWU's John Chenoweth, an endangered species biologist for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, captured the critter while assisting residents in their efforts to unearth flowering plants, grasses, vines, bushes and even small trees.

"We really appreciate the volunteers from the Native Plant Society," said AWU Director Greg Meszaros. "They were wonderful resources and spent all day both days helping people identify plants and learn how to take care of them. Planting native plants also helps conserve water since they don't need extra irrigation."

Frances Ruby was one of more than 100 residents who participated. She loaded her car with freshly dug rusty black-haw viburnum, bluestem, marble-eye, Texas redbud, twisted yucca, sumac and other plants.

She said the selection of native plant life from the area is rare and hard to find in nurseries. "I like that I can harvest them for free plus I get to learn about these plants and what they do," she said. "I have planted them at my office (Burns Anderson Jury & Brenner, LLP) off of 2222 and at my farm in Bastrop; these native species are both lovely and hardy."



Gardening enthusiasts kept it all in the family.



Plants were potted and labeled for their new homes.



The city's John Chenoweth relocated this alligator lizard.



Frances Ruby adopted native plants both weekends.

November 2010 Open House

AN OPEN HOUSE was held on November 10, 2010 at the Balcones Country Club to share project information and collect comments for each of the project construction sites. More than 70 attendees visited with project team members about WTP4, the Jollyville water transmission main, water conservation, and the environmental commissioning process. Attendees also viewed maps of proposed construction sites and identified locations such as homes, businesses, and other places of interest or concern, and completed surveys related to those locations.

Survey Summary

Thirty-seven surveys were collected and indicated the primary concerns are traffic, protection of the environment, noise, and safety. These surveys were valuable in assisting the team to better understand the community's concerns about the proposed construction sites. To review the survey results, please visit the project webpage Education and Outreach Page – Reports and Memos.



Arin Gray, Concept Development & Planning, LLC (CD&P) explains project to Open House guest.

Ongoing Fieldwork

As the team completes design of the project and enters construction of the transmission main, you may see different members of the project team in the field studying the area. City staff and contractors will continue to monitor ground water, survey and study the area, and in the fall, begin construction. If you have any questions about field work please contact the team at (512) 498-9874 or info@wtpfour.com.

WTP4 Construction Update

Construction of major facilities continues at WTP4, located at RM 620 and Bullick Hollow Road.

- The raw water pump station mass excavation contractor is completing construction and backfill of water quality ponds and permanent fence with completion in March 2011. The excavation of the site, construction of the detention and water quality ponds, and permanent fence construction provide for the efficient construction of the raw water pump station, raw water tunnel, and raw water transmission main that will eventually supply water to Water Treatment Plant 4.
- Construction of the retaining wall on the raw water pump station site is ongoing and expected completion is March 2011. The retaining wall is located along the Bullick Hollow Road right-of-way/property boundary. The construction of the retaining wall provides access to the raw water transmission main portal and sufficient work area for the remaining construction activities.
- Mobilization of the raw water system contractor began in January 2011.
- Construction of the raw water access shaft and raw water transmission main on the raw water pump station site to begin March 2011. Construction of the raw water tunnel to Lake Travis will be conducted through the raw water access shaft on the raw water pump station site.
- Construction of the raw water tunnel is to begin in 2012. The raw water tunnel – which will transport water from Lake Travis to the raw water pump station so that it can be pumped to the water treatment plant—will be in a solid rock forma-

tion more than 450 feet below the elevation of properties near Comanche Trail and Oasis Bluff Drive. At this depth, no vibrations or disturbance will impact the surface, and no access points will be made between the raw water pump station and Lake Travis.

- Plant storm water facility construction is substantially complete with final completion items and revegetation efforts ongoing. The storm water facility construction consisted of the construction of seven detention and water quality basin systems to collect and treat storm water runoff during and after construction of the plant facilities.
- Excavation of upflow clarifiers 1 & 2 and raw water pipe gallery is complete. Concrete work is ongoing. The raw water pipe gallery takes water from the raw water pump station and distributes water to the upflow clarifiers 1 & 2. The upflow clarifiers provide settling and removal of particulates and suspended solids from the raw water before the water is filtered.
- Excavation of the filter complex is completed. The filter complex uses sand and anthracite to remove pathogens from raw water before it is sent to the clearwells, disinfected, and distributed to the drinking water system.
- Excavation of clearwells 1 & 2 are complete and concrete work is ongoing. The clearwells provide onsite storage of water and sufficient disinfection contact time prior to the treated water being distributed to the Austin Water Utility drinking water system.
- Tree clearing for areas of future construction will be completed by end of February 2011.
- Plant site grading, retaining wall construction, and rough grading of roads to begin in February 2011.