



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **4.21.17**

#### ***Northwest Hillsborough Wastewater Consolidation Program***

##### **What is the Northwest Hillsborough Wastewater Consolidation Program?**

The Northwest Hillsborough Wastewater Consolidation Program consists of retiring two outdated wastewater treatment plants (Dale Mabry and River Oaks), expanding the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility, and building new transmission pipelines and two new pump stations to transfer wastewater from the old plants to the expanded Northwest plant. New reclaimed water mains will return reclaimed water back to the service areas. When completed, the project will improve wastewater service, improve reliability and save money for all County customers.

##### **Why is this project necessary?**

The Dale Mabry and River Oaks wastewater treatment plants are both more than 40 years old, have needed significant repairs in the past, and have reached the end of their useful lives. The aging plants are expensive to maintain and operate, requiring millions of dollars per year. The goals of the program are to improve treatment efficiency, reduce power costs and minimize future rate impacts.

##### **Will this project increase my water rates?**

No. All phases of the program, including demolition of old facilities, new pipelines and pump stations, and the expansion of the Northwest facility, are expected to be funded without raising rates. In fact, the program is estimated to save approximately \$86 million over the next 20 years.

##### **Will this project have an impact on my future water rates?**

Yes. The more efficient treatment at the expanded facility should minimize future rate impacts.

##### **What is the timing of the program?**

The first program component is the Dale Mabry Wastewater Diversion project. The Dale Mabry Diversion project involves transferring flows from the Dale Mabry facility to the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility, which has ample capacity to treat that wastewater. Six miles of 24-inch and 36-inch diameter transmission main and reclaimed water lines have been installed. A new pump station is currently being built to transfer flows. Once completed, it will go through an extended start-up period to ensure efficient operations in wet and dry weather. After that, the Dale Mabry wastewater treatment plant will be retired.

The second component involves expanding the Northwest facility to accept and treat wastewater flows from River Oaks. To transfer flows from River Oaks to the Northwest facility, a pump station and a new 4-mile, 36-inch transmission main will be designed and constructed. Design and permitting for the Northwest facility began in spring 2016 and construction of initial phases is scheduled to begin in summer 2017.

**How much is this project going to cost?**

The Dale Mabry portion of the project cost approximately \$35 million and is being paid for with funds that the County currently has on hand. The second phase of the project, which includes expansion of the Northwest facility, new pipelines and retiring the River Oaks facility, is estimated to cost approximately \$210 million. These projects are being funded through the approved Capital Improvement Program.

**How will you keep the community informed?**

Hillsborough County is committed to an open dialogue with the community as the project progresses. County staff will work with the selected design-build teams to provide information as the project advances. For more information, you can also go to [HCFL.net/wwc](http://HCFL.net/wwc). There is a link on that page where you can sign up for email announcements and notices for the program.

***Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility Expansion***

**Will the expansion of the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility cause odor?**

No. The County is committed to being the best neighbor possible. In fact, the County is investing in technologies that efficiently control odor and noise, leaving the northwest Hillsborough community's quality of life unaffected by plant operations. The expansion plan includes relocating the headworks to better shield it from neighbors. Another source of odor is the biosolids facility. As part of the expansion, the County plans to move the biosolids processing equipment offsite to another location, removing this process from the Northwest facility. Other odor-reducing steps taking place during the expansion include the covering of process treatment tanks where foul air can escape, and adding a new air cleaning process to strip odors and polish the air before release.

**Will the expansion of the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility cause increased noise?**

As with all construction projects, there will be some noise generated from trucks, heavy equipment and earth-moving activities. However, to minimize noise, the County will restrict construction activity on site mainly to weekdays between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Once the facility is completed, there should be no discernible noise at the County's property line during normal operations. This is one of the design criteria that the design-build team must meet.

**Will this project affect my neighborhood? Will I be inconvenienced? For how long?**

Residents living near the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility may experience a short-term increase in construction traffic. However, construction traffic will mainly occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Construction is expected to begin summer 2017 and will last approximately three years.

**What are the truck routes and how will you manage traffic?**

About 60 percent of the construction traffic will access the site from Race Track Road and South Mobley Road. The remaining 40 percent will access the site from Sheldon Road, from the north and south, to South Mobley Road. Hillsborough County and Garney/Wharton-Smith, the design-build contractor, are committed to reducing traffic inconvenience while keeping the roads safe for all travelers. Construction traffic will mainly occur on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Truck operators will be trained on normal operating hours and receive additional awareness and safety training necessary to travel in and around the project area. Additionally, traffic cameras will be placed in a few strategic locations near Ed Radice Park to ensure that construction trucks are driving safely and are abiding by the stated hours of operations.

**How will you minimize traffic impacts with Ed Radice Park?**

Construction activities are being coordinated with the park's recreation schedules to eliminate traffic conflicts. Workers will be on site before 7:00 a.m. and will leave the site each day by 4:00 p.m. And construction deliveries will be made between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Traffic in the area will be closely monitored and alternate access points are being evaluated and considered.

**How long will the expansion be good for?**

The expansion is projected to meet the region's wastewater treatment needs through 2040. However, the site is being planned to accommodate future expansion, should it be needed, for wastewater treatment needs beyond 2040.

**What else are you planning to do on the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility site?**

An exciting bonus to the project is the addition of a multi-use trail that will run nearly two miles on the County's property. Credit for this trail must be given to the residents, who suggested adding trails near the Northwest facility during the development of the consolidation program.

**Are wetlands being impacted for the expansion?**

The County is centralizing and concentrating current and future plant expansions in a defined area, so there is a wetland buffer encircling the plant site. Preliminary estimates showed 51 acres of wetlands being impacted by the project. However, the design-builder, Garney/Wharton-Smith, was able to reduce this impact to only 11 acres, thus saving much of the surrounding natural areas.

To mitigate this wetland impact, the County will create, restore or enhance approximately 90 acres that will support wildlife and buffer the plant from the surrounding neighborhoods.

**Is the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility located in the 100-year flood plain?**

No, the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility is not in the 100-year flood plain and the proposed expansion will not be either.

**Will construction of the pipelines or of the plant expansion affect drainage flows?**

No, the Northwest Facility will be designed to not affect the surrounding storm water plan.