

**LUCE BAYOU INTERBASIN
TRANSFER PROJECT:
Est. Total Cost ~\$350 M
WHCRWA Cost ~\$70 M**

**NE WATER PURIFICATION
PLANT EXPANSION:
Est. Total Cost ~\$1.775B
WHCRWA COST ~ \$460 M**

**SURFACE WATER SUPPLY
PROJECT:
Est. Cost ~\$1.2 B
WHCRWA COST ~\$660 M**

**WHCRWA 2025
INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION
LINES : Est. Cost ~\$361 M**



**For additional information
about future water cost and
supply, visit our website
www.whcrwa.com and view
the PARTNERS IN PROGRESS
video linked on the home page.**



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**THE RISING COST OF
WATER**

WHERE DOES OUR DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

Residents in northwest Harris County have traditionally relied on groundwater pumped from individual wells, many of which might now be 30 or 40 years old. This water has been delivered to homes and businesses by hundreds of individual Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs). When the faucets were turned on...water came out.

WHY ARE WE CONVERTING TO SURFACE WATER?

As recently as twenty years ago, people were generally unaware that there was a growing problem with land subsidence in the area, or that aquifers supplying the region were beginning to decline. In the 1970's, when the Brownwood Subdivision south of Houston was overwhelmed by flooding and sank into the marsh, few outside that area even noticed...but it served as an indisputable wake up call.

In 1975, the Texas Legislature created the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District with the power to restrict groundwater withdrawals as a method to arrest subsidence. After the District required industries on the Houston Ship Channel to convert to surface water, subsidence in the Baytown-Pasadena area was dramatically improved, and has since largely been halted.

The combination of subsidence in northwest Harris County and evidence that aquifers were declining confirmed the need to convert to surface water for this area, as well. The Subsidence District extended its groundwater regulation to include north and west Harris County in 2000.

The first phase of the Subsidence District's groundwater reduction mandate was completed in 2010, which reduced reliance on groundwater in the area by 30 percent. The

next deadline is 2025 and requires 60 percent conversion to alternate (or surface) water.

WHERE WILL OUR WATER COME FROM IN THE FUTURE?

Will we have enough water to meet the needs of our growing population and to sustain economic growth and development for future generations? We believe the answer is "Yes."

Each year, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) collects information on water usage and comprehensive population projections from water systems around the state. Every five years, this data is used to create **The State Water Plan** to provide a critical roadmap for our long-term planning.

Since its creation in 2001, the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) has complied with Subsidence District groundwater reduction mandates, and is actively constructing a new water infrastructure to deliver water to hundreds of thousands of additional residents in the future.

An alliance of regional water providers have teamed up to initiate the **Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project** that will bring untreated water from the Trinity River to Lake Houston and the City's Northeast Water Purification Plant. The partners include the City of Houston, the North, West and Central Harris County Regional Water Authorities, the North Fort Bend Water Authority, and the Coastal Water Authority.

Construction on the 90-acre Capers Ridge Pump Station on the Trinity River's west bank is underway. When fully functional, it will be able to divert up to 500 million gallons of water a day from the river into huge side-by-side underground pipelines, then into a series of canals, and into Lake Houston.

With more untreated water coming into the Lake Houston reservoir, regional water

authorities and the City of Houston are also partnering to expand the **Northeast Water Purification Plant** with each paying its fair share of the costs. This massive project will increase the treatment capacity by 320 million gallons a day. This plant expansion is considered to be the largest design-build project of its kind underway in the U.S. today.

The **Surface Water Supply Project** is a landmark endeavor that will deliver much-needed water treated at the Northeast Water Purification Plant through a major, 8 ft. diameter transmission line across almost 40 miles to west Harris and Fort Bend counties. The pipeline is a joint project between WHCRWA and the North Fort Bend Water Authority.

In addition to these projects, the WHCRWA will also need to fund its internal distribution lines, constructing 75 miles of new water distribution lines to convert additional MUDs to surface water.

Add up the price tags of the massive projects now underway and WHCRWA's share comes to about \$1.5 BILLION over the next decade. Fortunately, we have access to the TWDB's State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) to help pay for these water supply projects.

There is no doubt that the cost of water will continue to rise; however, the Authority's Board of Directors is committed to keeping the cost of water as low as possible for as long as possible.

Effective January 1, 2019 the well pumpage fee is \$2.95/1000 gallons and the surface water fee is \$3.35/1000 gallons.