



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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New Drinking Water Supply Moves Closer to San Marcos

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SEGUIN -San Marcans moved one step closer to achieving their goal of a firm surface water supply to meet future growth needs when construction of a raw water transmission pipeline began this week at Lake Dunlap and Route 46. The completed pipeline will eventually transport water from the Guadalupe River at Lake Dunlap to a new treatment plant currently being built near the City of San Marcos.

According to Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority chief engineer Tommy Hill, the pipeline contractor S. J. Louis Construction will be excavating and boring under several roadways during the next few months. "In addition to notifying landowners who furnished rights-of-way for this project, we want to alert area residents of the proposed work schedule."

Hill said there will not be any detours or road closings because the pipe will be bored under existing roads. "However, we want to alert motorists to expect occasional traffic delays while trucks deliver and offload pipe along the construction route."

The projected construction schedule provided by the contractor calls for the pipeline to be laid from the Guadalupe River through Dauer Ranch Road to FM 758 from January 18 through February 15.

The next stage will involve work from Schwartzlose Road to FM 1101 to the end of Francis Harris Lane and then to Centerpoint Road from February 15 through March 22. Hill said these dates may need to be adjusted to reflect weather or other factors that could affect the construction schedule.

The second half of the project involves laying pipe from Centerpoint Road to the plant site at San Marcos. "When the contractor reaches this area, we will issue an updated construction schedule for this portion of the construction," Hill said.

(more)

San Marcos Plant Pipeline Work Begins
January 15, 1999
Page 2 of 2

“This pipeline is part of an ambitious project between GBRA and the City of San Marcos to reduce the City’s dependence on the Edwards Aquifer and also protect springflows at the San Marcos Springs,” said GBRA general manager W. E. “Bill” West, Jr. “In addition to relying on water pumped from the Edwards to supply drinking water needs, the City will have a reliable surface water supply of 5,000 acre-feet per year of stored water from Canyon Reservoir.”

The City negotiated the Canyon Reservoir contract in 1990 in anticipation of legislation that would require users to reduce the amount of water they pumped from the Edwards Aquifer. When the pipeline is finished, water will be diverted from the Guadalupe River at the southern end of Lake Dunlap and transported to a new regional water plant for treatment and distribution to residents of San Marcos and the surrounding area.

West said the regional plant approach offers several benefits, including the ability to design and size the plant to achieve maximum treatment and cost efficiencies, provide cost-savings to customers, and provide for future growth. “San Marcos officials are to be commended for their foresight and determination to insure their citizens a firm supply of treated drinking water to meet their future needs.”

The final project will include a raw water intake and 6 million gallon per day (mgd) pump station on the Guadalupe River at Lake Dunlap that GBRA will design, build, operate and maintain, approximately 20 miles of pipeline, and the new 6 mgd regional treatment plant.

West said GBRA is honored to have been selected by the City to operate and maintain the plant, following a highly competitive procurement process. “We have been providing professional water treatment management for approximately 30 years to communities in the Guadalupe River Basin and look forward to supplying San Marcos and other communities with a reliable supply of high quality treated drinking water for many years to come.”