

## COUNCIL MEMBER OLIVER PENNINGTON DISTRICT G

March 10, 2015

To the Residents of:

Woods of Lakeside
Carriage Hill
Heathwood Section 1
Lakeview Forest Section 1
Ashford Forest Sections 1 & 3
Lakeside Venture
Epernay Section 2
And surrounding areas

Re:

WBS No. R-000536-0021-3; Diversion and Abandonment of Kirkwood #3 Lift Station (FN340) to Harvest Moon Lift Station (FN236)

Dear District G Constituents:

I am writing to inform you of a proposed sanitary sewer project currently being designed by Public Works & Engineering and its consultants to be constructed in your general area, and to provide some background information regarding the extent and scope of this project.

The sanitary sewers in nearly all of your neighborhoods are currently piped to the Kirkwood #3 Lift Station, located at 1239 S. Kirkwood Rd. This Lift Station is served by the Turkey Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (located the northeast corner of Eldridge Parkway and Enclave Parkway) during Dry Weather Flow Conditions and by the West District Wastewater Treatment Plant (located at the northwest corner of Beltway 8 and Buffalo Bayou) during Wet Weather Flow Conditions. This nearly 20 year old lift station is undersized and at the end of its useful life. The control building and electrical equipment are not the required height above the 500 year flood elevation. Many of the components at this lift station are no longer functioning. The odor control equipment (ferrous sulfate chemical feed system) is not in working order. There have been 2 major sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in the last 12 months due to electrical failures at the lift station and during the last ten years there have been nearly one hundred SSOs. Much of the emergency equipment is missing or no longer functioning and the wet well structure is no longer compliant with applicable TCEQ regulations in many respects.

The City's design consultant evaluated 4 options, one to completely rebuild the Kirkwood #3 facility and 3 options to divert the effluent to the Harvest Moon Lift Station (an existing Lift Station that is currently being rehabilitated to add capacity). At this point, the design consultants are recommending the complete abandonment of the Kirkwood #3 facility, and its diversion to Harvest Moon. Their original proposal was to run their lines from Kirkwood to the Harvest Moon Lift Station some 3730 feet in the Harris County Flood Control's right-of-way along the Bayou. Given the sensitivity of this area and our desire to not disturb land along the Bayou, the design consultant is now recommending running the new

lines underneath Carriage Hill Drive from Kirkwood to Lashbrook Drive, north under Lashbrook Drive, through a private easement it hopes to acquire from one or more residents, and then micro-tunnel for 1000 feet approximately 30 below the surface to the existing Harvest Moon Lift Station.

After the completion of the diversion of flow to Harvest Moon, the City would demolish the existing Kirkwood #3 Lift Station, remove all structures to four feet below ground surface, and restore the property. They would demolish and remove the current brick wall along Kirkwood Drive. Once completed, the land would be sold by the City to the highest bidder for an additional home site.

There would be minor impacts on the natural area to the north of these neighborhoods and south of Buffalo Bayou. The construction of a temporary access road would be necessary so trucks can remove the dirt from the tunneling operation. One 6 foot manhole would be constructed between Lashbrook Drive and the Harvest Moon Lift Station so the new line can be serviced (these are required every 800 feet and since the tunneling operation would extend 1000 feet, the City would be required to have one access point to service the line). Our office has asked that the contractor survey the area and pick the least disruptive route for this access road and attempt to locate the required man hole cover in a place that is least disruptive to the natural habitat, and would result in removing the fewest number of quality trees. After the project is complete, the contractor will be required to replant the entire area where the access road is constructed and return it to its pre-construction condition.

Let me assure you that this is a sanitary sewer project only, to divert effluent from an aged and failing Lift Station to one that currently exists, functions appropriately, and will have more than sufficient capacity. This project has absolutely nothing to do with the City/County Flood Control mitigating detention issue (many refer to as "Save Our Forest" or CIP Project #M-261). This project has nothing to do with the location or construction of detention basins along the Bayou, and nothing whatever to do with the County's Charting Buffalo project.

We are currently planning a public meeting where the design consultants and the Public Works employees involved with the project will give a presentation of the plans and answer any questions the public may have. We do not yet have a firm date, but we are hopeful it will occur by mid-May. Currently, these are the anticipated construction milestones:

- Design Completion: April 25, 2016 (anticipated)
- Construction Advertisement: October 14, 2016 (anticipated)
- Construction Contract Award Date: February 22, 2017 (anticipated)
- Construction would be sometime in mid-2017 (anticipated)

For now, I ask that if you are not already signed up to receive my eblasts and newsletters, you visit my website and sign up to receive our eblasts (<a href="http://www.houstontx.gov/council/g/">http://www.houstontx.gov/council/g/</a>) (click the "Join Our Mailing List"). When we have a firm date for this public meeting, we will give notice via our eblast system. For budgetary reasons, I am only sending this written notice to the homes located directly along the proposed construction path. However, <a href="everyone">everyone</a> in your neighborhoods will be welcome at the public meeting and will be entitled to ask questions. I will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Oliver Pennington

