



PROJECT UPDATE

July, 2007

Mission

The Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (BCRUA), a partnership of the cities of Cedar Park, Leander, and Round Rock, has a responsibility to provide reliable, cost-effective sources of water for their fast growing jurisdictions. If the cities do not develop a new regional water supply system, resources will not be adequate in three to seven years, jeopardizing the health, safety, and quality of life for residents and negatively impacting the region's economic future.

Project Background

The three cities have been seeking solutions to providing long-term water supplies for several years. The Sandy Creek arm of Lake Travis is the current site of Cedar Park's and Leander's intake structures. However, this area of the lake is vulnerable to low lake levels. In fact, the need for a deep-water intake along the main channel of the lake became critical during the drought conditions of the past few years. If those drought conditions had not ended with recent rains, the two cities' current intake structures would have been "grounded", meaning they literally would not have been able to draw any water from the lake. That realization caused city leaders to accelerate planning for a comprehensive water supply system.

The BCRUA plans to develop the water system in three phases. The estimated timelines below may be adjusted pending project developments.

Phase 1—Construction of new temporary floating intake structure on Lake Travis, a raw water pipeline within the Trails End Road right of way, a new treatment plant in Cedar Park, and a new treated water pipeline. Construction is expected to begin in 2008 and be completed in 2010. Cost is estimated at \$160 million.

Phase 2A—Construction of permanent deep-water intake and raw water pipeline from the intake to the existing raw water pipeline. Construction is expected to be required no later than 2016, but it may be accelerated depending on drought conditions and lake levels. Cost estimate is \$80 million.

Phase 2B—Expansion of the water treatment plant. Expected to be needed in 2016. Ultimate cost of entire project estimated at \$330 million, including the future Phase 3 expansion of the water treatment plant.

The BCRUA estimates a supply of 30 million gallons per day (mgd) of water will be needed by the summer of 2010 to ensure adequate supply to the three cities. The water treatment plant is planned to allow an ultimate raw water capacity of 106 mgd. Key to the project is development of the deep-water intake, which will have an ultimate capacity of 142 mgd to serve the new BCRUA regional plant as well as the existing plants.

Both past and recent evaluations of potential sites for a permanent intake facility have indicated that the Village of Volente area would be the most economical and technically feasible option. No final decision on a site has been made. Recent heavy rains and rising lake levels have provided an opportunity to continue studies of potential sites for the deep-water intake. As a result, the BCRUA has asked its engineering consultant to prepare a new scope of services to further investigate sites and intake options.

Conversely, after extensive study, and barring any unforeseen technical issues, the location of the Phase 1 raw water pipeline has been determined. Two main options had emerged: one—locating the pipeline within the Trails End Road right of way, and two—locating the pipeline within the environmentally-sensitive Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.

While the project team has determined the Trails End alignment is the best route for technical, financial, and environmental reasons, we recognize construction will have a significant, although temporary impact on residents who live along Trails End Road and must use the road in order to access their neighborhoods. Open, honest and two-way communication with these impacted stakeholders is imperative and input is essential so that impacts can be lessened to the extent possible.

In order to receive input and answer questions about the project and pipeline route, the project team held an “Open House” for residents at Christ Episcopal Church on June 26, 2007. Turnout was tremendous despite the rain that evening. More than 80 people attended making the location less than ideal. We apologize for that and will seek other locations for future meetings. Some attendees expressed a desire for a more formal presentation rather than the open house format. The team will schedule such presentations at a future date. Below are some frequently heard questions and answers from the project team.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Project

Q: When will construction begin on Trails End Road and how long will it take?

A: *Construction is expected to begin in late spring or early summer, 2008. The work will be done in sections so that the entire length of Trails End Road is not affected all at once. Work involving heavy machinery will take approximately 18 months. The total construction timeline including site preparation, final testing, inspections, and cleanup is estimated at 24 months.*

Q: How will the pipeline be installed in Trails End Road?

A: *The 78” (6 ½ foot) pipeline will be tunneled under the Sandy Creek Arm of Lake Travis to the south end of the right-of-way of Trails End Road. Open cut and cover methods will be used within the right-of-way of Trails End Road to its intersection with RM 1431. This will typically require excavation of a trench with a width of approximately 10 feet and a depth of 14 feet. After the pipe is installed, the trench will be filled and the ground will be compacted back to its original elevation.*

Q: Can all the work be contained within the Trails End Road right-of-way?

A: *No. The right of way is 80 feet wide and the contractor will generally be allowed to use only half of it, or 40 feet. In order to construct the pipeline in a cost-effective manner, the contractor will generally need a total width of about 70 feet for temporary storage of pipe materials, equipment working room, etc. Consequently, an additional 30-foot wide temporary construction easement will generally be required from property owners on the side of the road where the pipe is being constructed.*

Q: How will the easements be acquired?

A: A member of the acquisition team will contact each affected property owner and negotiate for the acquisition of the easement.

Q: What route, exactly, will the pipeline take? We're concerned about the pipeline going through the middle of our properties.

A: The pipeline will generally be located between the edge of road and the property line within the right-of-way and will be on different sides of the road at different locations depending on the location of existing underground utilities, overhead power lines, and nearby structures.

Q: Why does it cross from the west side to the east side?

A: To minimize conflicts with overhead power lines, existing vegetation, and other surface obstructions.

Q: How will the construction affect the flow of traffic on Trails End Road? Will a temporary lane be constructed? A particular concern is ensuring emergency vehicles have access.

A: Two lanes will be open most of the time, except when pipeline construction crosses from one side of Trails End Road to the other. During such time, one lane will be closed at a time and traffic will be controlled using a flagman to temporarily stop traffic in one direction at a time. Such lane closures will be scheduled during non-peak travel times

Q: How will the construction impact access to my driveway?

A: The contractor will be required to maintain access to driveways at all times. The only exception is when pipe needs to be installed directly in front of a driveway. In such a case, a resident's driveway will be shut down for a short period of time (estimated at two to four hours). You will be contacted well in advance of the need to close your driveway to coordinate a convenient time that does not create an undue hardship.

Q: What will you do to ensure travel is safe during construction? Trails End Road has a lot of curves.

A: Safety measures such as barricades, proper signage, and speed limits will be in place as approved by Travis County and other pertinent jurisdictional entities. In addition, barriers will be installed between the construction and the roadway to protect the construction workers and vehicles traveling on Trails End Road.

Q: What impact will the construction have on drainage? We've experienced drainage problems as a result of the LCRA pipeline project.

A: The contractor will be required to maintain adequate drainage during the entire construction period. This may require installation of temporary culverts, grading of ditches, etc. Following construction, all roadside ditches, culverts and other drainage structures will be restored to their original condition or better.

Q: What about impacts to our septic tank and drain field?

A: The exact locations of drain fields will be determined prior to construction. Construction areas will be limited so as not to impact existing drain fields.

Q: What provisions will be made in the design to prevent groundwater from just migrating down through the large trench line? That would alter the natural flow of water and could result in damage to existing vegetation. What about contamination to our wells?

A: The direct impact to groundwater should be limited since the trench is only about 14-feet deep in most places. Also, because the pipeline is being constructed near the existing road, the amount of storm water crossing the trench will be very limited. As a result, the alteration of natural flow of storm water will be very minor and will not have an impact on existing vegetation.

Q: Will construction damage the foundation of my home?

A: *Construction will be limited to the 70-foot working area. Blasting will not be used as a means of excavation for this pipeline project.*

Q: Will my fence or mailbox need to be removed?

A: *In some cases, it may be necessary to temporarily remove existing fences to allow construction. In such cases, the contractor will be required to install a temporary fence. The original fence will be replaced to its original condition or better following construction. If a mailbox needs to be removed, it will be relocated to a nearby convenient location so it can remain in use. After construction, the mailbox will be replaced to its original location in its original condition or better.*

Q: Will trees need to be removed within the 30-foot wide temporary construction easement?

A: *Yes. However, it is the intent of the BCRUA to protect and preserve all hardwood trees greater than 12-inches in diameter within the temporary easement area.*

Q: How will the area be restored following construction?

A: *Areas adjacent to the limits of construction will be photographed before any construction begins. If existing structures, etc. are damaged during construction, they will be repaired or replaced to original condition or better. Ground cover and structures disturbed by construction will also be restored to original condition or better. For example, all sodded areas will be re-sodded following construction, and all driveway culverts removed during construction will be reconstructed, etc. After all construction has been completed, Trails End Road will be repaved along its entire length.*

Q: Will there be any visible signs of the pipeline?

A: *At certain locations along the pipeline, manholes will be visible at the ground surface. Air release valves will be located inside these manholes and are required for proper operation of the pipeline.*

Q: Can I connect to the line once it is completed?

A: *No. This will be a raw water pipeline, which will be used to transfer untreated water from Lake Travis directly to the new BCRUA Regional Water Treatment Plant for treatment. It will not carry drinking water.*

Thank You for Your Interest

The project team realizes this list of questions is by no means exhaustive. Additional questions and concerns may arise as the project progresses. The project team will be scheduling more open house events, briefings to elected officials, and presentations. Team members are available to attend neighborhood association and civic organization meetings to discuss the project as well. Other mechanisms to receive answers and provide additional input are underway.

BCRUA Website Online

Project information such as engineering reports, maps, and schedules can now be found on the Internet at this address: **bcrua.org**. The website is a source of current information as well as a repository of project information. The website features a "Contact Us" section in which you can email comments and/or questions and receive a timely email reply or call back.

BCRUA Hotline Operational

An additional way to ask questions and provide input is by calling the **BCRUA Project Hotline**. The number is **(512) 684-3200**. The hotline will be answered during normal business hours Monday through Friday. Messages may be left after-hours and on weekends.

Project Team

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