

## **From the pipeline to your faucet**

*District proposes project funding with bonds*

Since it was created in 1946, Fort Bend County Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) No. 2 has been providing water & sewer services to area customers in its district and it's making plans to continue that work with bonds amounting to \$31.9 million, subject to voter approval.

The district will go to voters with a bond package on May 14<sup>th</sup> to finance projects that are required by law. Also some of the projects include facilities in need of repair and upgrade, like on Brand Lane which is being expanded by the City of Stafford, and even projects for the future growth expected in this area.

Last year, Fort Bend County WCID No. 2 went to the voters with an almost identical bond package like the one currently proposed. It failed when it did not receive a majority of votes for passage. Subject to voter approval this May, the district proposes to fund the projects with bonds payable from property taxes instead of from water and sewer rates.

In less than 60 days, the district's registered voters will get to decide once again and they will be asked to vote at their precincts during early voting and on Election Day. This decision was made by the district's Board of Directors, which elected to contract with Fort Bend County. To obtain additional information on the election please visit the District's web site at [www.fbcwcid2.com](http://www.fbcwcid2.com).

This time, the amount of the bond package has been reduced due to delaying several of the projects. Also, the district will fund two other projects, the Vacarro Manor and Crestmont Subdivision projects, out of its operating funds.

If the bond election fails again, the district plans to issue revenue bonds, payable from water and sewer rates instead of from property taxes.

General Manager Owen Matherne said Fort Bend County WCID No. 2 has functioned with the approval of tax bonds by voters since the 1950's. "Today, we've got three times more water than we are using, even after peak demand," said Matherne in response to concerns about not having sufficient water capacity. The district acquired its future water needs at 1994 rates, approximately 300% lower than today's rates. "This equates to a substantial savings for our customers," states Matherne.

The City of Stafford, in which the district is headquartered, is regarded as a state leader and an exceptional example of how to run a city efficiently with a zero property tax. "We feel that we have been part of that success," said Matherne. "We've been a partner working alongside Stafford and other cities in our regional water service effort, and Fort Bend County WCID No. 2 will continue to fulfill its state authorized responsibilities."

Fort Bend County WCID No.2 is steadfast about continuing to provide its customers water for today's needs and those of the future. It serves as a regional water and sewer service provider for all of Stafford, parts of Missouri City, Sugar Land, and Houston, and some unincorporated areas of Fort Bend and Harris County.

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