



## Charlotte Harbor Water Association Distribution System Improvements Project Construction Begins November 2020

Construction in Section 1, the residential area south of Sunnybrook Road to the Peace River in the Harbour Heights community will begin this month. Improvements will replace over 18 miles of old and undersized water mains, install new fire hydrants, isolation valves and water service connections. Section 1 work is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

### Project Funding

There are no assessments to residents for the Distribution System Improvements (DSI) Project. This project is funded in part through a loan and grant with the USDA Rural Development – Water & Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program. Charlotte Harbor Water Association (CHWA) received a grant amount of nearly \$5.5 million dollars and a loan amount of \$7.1 million to be paid back through a long-term, 40-year, low interest rate. These funds cover the total project cost of \$12,559,000.

### Section 1 - Progression of Work

Currently, the contractor is bringing materials and equipment into the Section 1 area, staking is underway, and construction will start soon. The contractor is expected to begin installing water main pipes in the southwest area of Section 1 on the Discovery Drive area streets south of Sunnybrook Road. From here, the work is generally expected to progress toward Desoto Drive and Highlands Road, then move to Sulstone Drive and continue to head northeasterly until completion of Section 1. This is a general phasing schedule and is subject to change based on underground conditions or protected species avoidance and relocation. Construction will be concurrent on multiple streets and will move depending upon “shovel-ready” areas. Streets signs will be placed on each street to notify residents of upcoming construction on their street. Residents may also want to sign up on the project website at [www.CHWAWaterImprovements.com](http://www.CHWAWaterImprovements.com) to receive email updates about the project.

### Personal Property Items in the Right-of-Way - What do residents need to do?

Some personal property items located in the right-of-way may need to be removed or relocated out of the right-of-way during water main installation. Personal property items may include lighting, landscaping, fencing, yard art and monument or decorative mailboxes. The right-of-way varies from street to street; however, it is generally 15 feet from the edge of the pavement. Property owners can flag irrigation heads that are located within the right-of-way to alert the contractor of their presence. The contractor will make every effort to work around the system; however, irrigation lines may be cut and capped during construction. If you are concerned about a specific personal property item in the ROW, please contact the Distribution System Improvements public information office at 239-337-1071.

### How Do I Determine the ROW?

This project’s right-of-way varies from street to street; however, it is generally 15 feet from the edge of the pavement. Property owners are encouraged to relocate or remove personal property items out of the right-of-way to avoid damage during construction. Personal property items located in the right-of-way are subject to removal. Whenever possible, the contractor will work around large trees. The contractor may temporarily relocate mailboxes but will reinstall them during restoration.



## **What to Expect During Construction**

The contractor is expected to work weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Some night and weekend work may be necessary to complete emergency repairs. First, a videographer will record existing conditions prior to the start of construction. Silt fence for erosion control will be installed. Contractors will use a combination of underground drilling and open cutting to install pipes. In areas where underground drilling is used, the contractor will dig two drill pits, fuse and stage pipe along the right-of-way, and then pull the pipe underground from one pit to the other pit. During open cut pipe installation, crews will dig a trench to install pipes. The location of work will shift daily.

Dewatering pipes may need to be installed in some areas. Dewatering is sometimes necessary to keep the trench dry while pipe is being installed. Pumps help to remove water from the pipe trench. They typically need to run 24 hours per day and can be noisy. Where used, the contractor will make every effort to place the pumps in areas that are least intrusive to residential properties; however, the location of these pumps will be determined by construction activities and may not be adjustable. The pumps will move as pipe installation progresses.

New water mains and fire hydrants will be installed. Once new water lines are installed, they will be tested, inspected, sterilized and flushed prior to placing them into service. New water meters will be installed, and timely connections will be made during construction to minimize interruptions. Finally, sod will be restored at the end of the project.

The Distribution System Improvements team will work to minimize inconveniences due to construction. There may be times when entering or exiting your property that you may need to wait briefly for construction activities. Impacts to residents during construction may include materials & equipment being stored within the right-of-way and temporary road or lane closures. Some driveway aprons will be removed for installation of water lines and will be replaced in kind; however, driveways may not be accessible during concrete replacement. Incidental damages to property may occur during construction and will be restored upon completion of the work.

## **Water Shut Offs, Boil Water Advisories and Rescissions**

Water will be shut off to disconnect services from the old system and connect services to the new system. Every effort will be made to keep water shut offs to a minimum. Immediately following a water shut-off, you may be required to boil your water until bacteriological tests have been taken and cleared. This boil water period usually lasts approximately two to three days. You will be notified of planned water shut offs, boil water advisories and rescissions via CodeRED, notices, street signs or media depending upon the size of the affected area.

Charlotte Harbor Water Association strongly suggests residents in the DSI project area sign up for the CodeRED emergency alert system to receive the most up-to-date notifications about water shut offs, boil water advisories and rescission notices. CodeRED is an emergency notification system that allows CHWA to notify residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message, email and social media regarding time-sensitive notifications such as water outages. Sign up for CodeRED on the project website at [www.CHWAWaterImprovements.com](http://www.CHWAWaterImprovements.com).

## **Emergency and Public Services**

Our team will notify emergency services and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office of road closures and water outages during the project. Our goal is to ensure services such as mail delivery, garbage & recycle pickup, lawn and household services, and bus and paratransit services have minimal disruptions. Residents requiring special transportation services, please contact the DSI project public information consultant at 239-337-1071 or via [info@CHWAWaterImprovements.com](mailto:info@CHWAWaterImprovements.com).

## **Questions? Need help during construction?**

Visit the website at [www.CHWAWaterImprovements.com](http://www.CHWAWaterImprovements.com). If you have questions or concerns during construction, please contact the Distribution System Improvements public information office, Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc. at 239-337-1071 or via e-mail to [inf@CHWAWaterImprovements.com](mailto:inf@CHWAWaterImprovements.com).