

November 2020



Distribution System Improvements Project

Construction Scheduled to Start this Year



The Charlotte Harbor Water Association (CHWA) invites you to a pre-construction public information meeting to view plans and learn construction details about the Distribution System Improvements (DSI) Project that will start this year. This project will improve water quality, service reliability and increase fire protection in the communities of Harbour Heights and Port Charlotte that surround the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor. **It is the largest project of its type conducted by a non-profit utility organization and one of only three in the nation to receive funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to improve rural infrastructure!**

The Distribution System Improvements Project is funded in part through a loan and grant with the USDA Rural Development – Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program.

Funding Provided By The USDA:

Loan amount: \$7,130,000

Grant amount: \$5,429,000

Estimated Total Project Cost for the Distribution System Improvements Project: \$12,559,000



The Distribution System Improvements (DSI) Project

The DSI project will be divided into three separate project areas, or sections. No more than two sections will be under construction at the same time with Section 1 starting first. Completion of all three sections is estimated by the end of 2023.

Section 1

This section generally consists of the residential area south of Sunnybrook Road to the Peace River in the Harbour Heights community.

Section 2

This section includes the residential and commercial areas of Harbour Heights extending north from Sunnybrook Road to Adams Street and from Deep Creek on the west to the Peace River on the east.

Section 3

This section extends north from Adams Street to Neaptide Drive and from Deep Creek on the west to the Peace River on the east.



Gopher Tortoise Relocation

CHWA is aware of the presence of protected species such as gopher tortoises in the project area. Project environmentalists are currently locating and mapping gopher tortoise burrows throughout the DSI project area and will be obtaining permits to safely relocate them. If you are aware of a gopher tortoise burrow on your property or within the road right-of-way, please contact the public information consultant for the DSI project at info@CHWAWaterImprovements.com or call 239-337-1071. We will need to obtain a Temporary Right of Entry to relocate gopher tortoises off your property due to the proximity of the replacement water mains.

What to Expect During Construction

Work is expected to occur during weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Some night and weekend work may be necessary. Water mains and new fire hydrants will be installed. Once new water lines are in place, 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 and landscape will be restored at the end of the project.

While underground utilities are located and crews try their best to not cut cables, these incidents happen. If your home phone, internet, or TV cable is cut, please report it to your service provider and then contact us to advise. The providers will not schedule a repair if we call them. They want to make sure the cable is live before they send technicians out for repair and we have no way of knowing if the cable is active or not.



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 will be required to boil your water until bacteriological tests have been taken and cleared. This boil water period usually lasts approximately three to five days. You will be notified of planned water shut offs, boil water advisories and rescissions via [CodeRED](#), notices and media depending upon the size of the affected area.

Please keep in mind, older water lines could be damaged or disintegrate unexpectedly during construction and an unplanned water disruption may occur. For this reason, CHWA strongly suggests residents in the DSI construction zone sign up for the [CodeRED](#) Emergency Alert System at www.CHWAWaterImprovements.com and click on the [CodeRED](#) link. [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 general and emergency notifications such as water outages. You may also want to keep bottled water on hand in case of an emergency water line break.

If there is someone in your home that requires special transportation services, please contact the CHWA's public information consultant for the project at 239-337-1071 or email to info@CHWAWaterImprovements.com.



Preconstruction Public Information Meeting

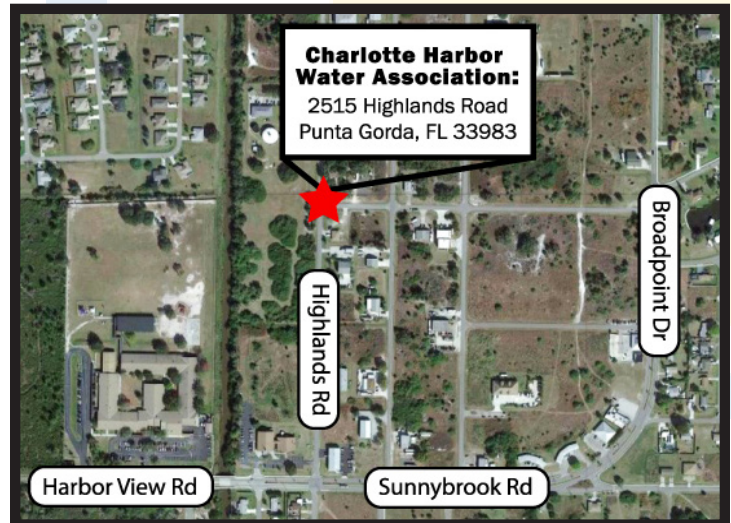
Charlotte Harbor Water Association invites customers in the Harbour Heights and Port Charlotte communities that surround the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor to a preconstruction public information meeting to learn construction details about the Distribution System Improvements Project. The meeting will be held in an "open house" format (attend anytime during these hours) from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2020 under the big tent at CHWA's office located at 2515 Highlands Road in Punta Gorda, FL. Project plans will be on display for the public to view. The meeting will follow the Center for Disease Control guidelines. Attendees are asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing while attending the meeting. Masks will be provided to anyone who needs one.

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (*Open house-come anytime*)

Place: Charlotte Harbor Water Association
Under the big tent
2515 Highlands Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33983

The presentation and display boards shown at the preconstruction public information meeting will be available on the Distribution System Improvements Project website at www.CHWAWaterImprovements.com for residents that are not able to attend the preconstruction meeting.



Questions?

If you would like to receive project construction updates via email, please email info@CHWAWaterImprovements.com to request to be added to the email distribution list. If you have questions about the project or issues during construction, please contact the CHWA's public information consultant for the DSI project:

Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc.



239-337-1071, 877-496-1076 (toll free)



info@CHWAWaterImprovements.com