

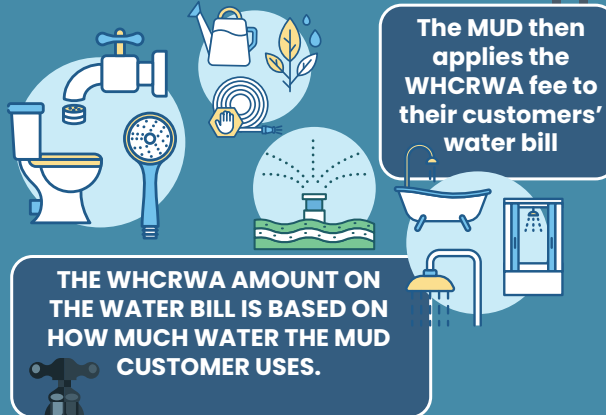
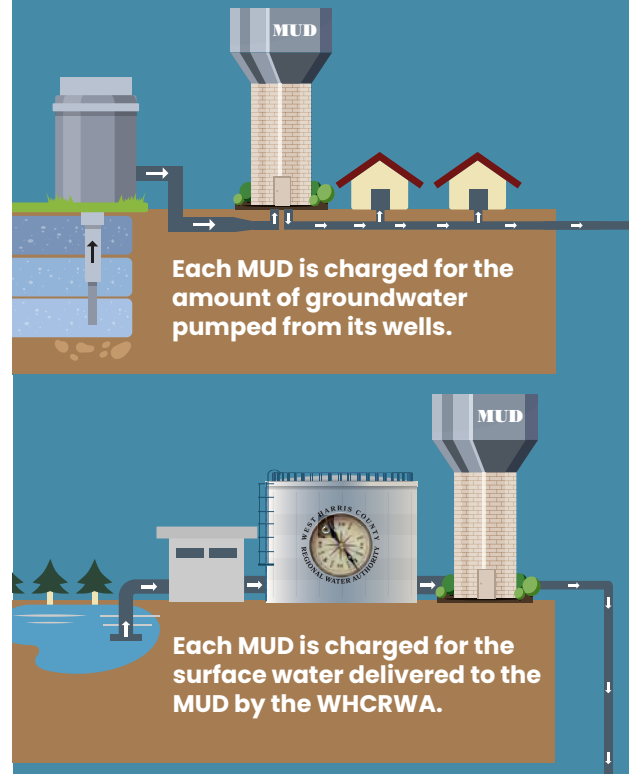
WHCRWA NFBWA SURFACE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT



To meet the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD) and Fort Bend Subsidence District's (FBSD) groundwater reduction requirements for 2025 and beyond, the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) has partnered with the North Fort Bend Water Authority (NFBWA) to construct the Surface Water Supply Project. The Surface Water Supply Project is needed to conserve groundwater and reduce land subsidence. Land subsidence is the sinking of the land surface. Pumping large amounts of groundwater causes the ground to settle, lowering the elevation of the land. This project will help to reduce land subsidence and will meet the water needs of a rapidly growing population.



surfacewatersupplyproject.com



The WHCRWA amount may change monthly depending on the customer's usage.

**THE MORE WATER A
CUSTOMER USES, THE
HIGHER THE WHCRWA
AMOUNT ON THE
BILL WILL BE.**

THE RISING COST OF WATER

January 1, 2023



Land Subsidence

WHCRWA was created by the Texas Legislature in 2001 to comply with groundwater reduction as mandated by the Harris Galveston Subsidence District.



Conversion Mandate

Harris Galveston Subsidence District's Regulatory Plan requires conversion from groundwater to surface water.



Population

The population of WHCRWA has grown exponentially over the past 20 years and is expected to increase from 562,968 in 2020 to 697,575 in 2070.



Cost of Construction

The total regional costs to meet the HGSD requirements and to ensure a long-term supply of surface water are estimated to be more than \$6 Billion.



www.whcrwa.com

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE RISING COST OF WATER?

By the mid-1970s, significant land subsidence had begun in southeast Texas, Harris and Galveston counties. In fact, whole subdivisions were sinking into the marsh and the aquifers that had traditionally provided the area's drinking water were in decline due to over pumping of the readily available and cheap groundwater.

In 1975 the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD), was created by the Texas Legislature and given the power to restrict groundwater withdrawals in these coastal counties as a method of minimizing subsidence and helping to give the aquifers an opportunity to recharge.

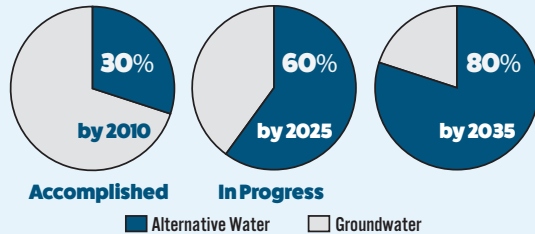
The HGSD's Regulatory Plan required conversion from groundwater to surface water in phases.

to the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA), it has been necessary to rely on water fees for revenue; to borrow money to purchase surface water; and to fund construction of the massive new water infrastructure. These costs have been passed along to the MUDs and cities – the retail water providers -- through usage fees. MUDs in HGSD Area 3 that do not meet the surface water

conversion requirements of the HGSD would be forced to pay the HGSD's \$10.20 per 1000 gallons disincentive fee.

Since its creation in 2001, WHCRWA has held numerous bond sales to fund the 2010 and 2025 distribution system and other construction costs. As more bonds are sold to fund the 2025 conversion projects, the debt service will continue to rise. Fortunately, WHCRWA has had access to the State Water Implementation Fund of Texas. This will save consumers millions of dollars in interest payments over the next 30 years.

The WHCRWA Board of Directors has approved a rate increase effective January 1, 2023 of \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons of Surface Water delivered (from \$4.10 per 1000 gallons to \$4.35 per 1000 gallons) and for Groundwater pumped (from \$3.70 per 1000 gallons to \$3.95 per 1000 gallons).



Reasoning that it would be virtually impossible for the individual MUDs to accomplish this challenge on their own, the Texas Legislature – with a public vote – created regional water authorities to facilitate compliance with the mandates.

With restricted access to groundwater, the region had to acquire an alternate source of this finite natural resource that was far more costly. And since the Texas Legislature did not grant taxing authority



Groundwater Fee, Surface Water Fee and HGSD Disincentive Fee

