

Request: \$5 million to begin immediate work on Water and Sewer pipes within the City of Gustine, focusing first upon the main line required for continued service to all, which is under Highway 33/140.

Description: Approximately 5,900 residents call Gustine home and they depend upon the City to provide safe, affordable drinking water. Water and sewer lines in Gustine neighborhoods date back multiple decades. The City estimates the age of the main under Highways 33 and 140 as 70-years-old and the majority of lines in the community are of similar age.



While the City has increased water rates several times in the last eight years, revenue from increases cannot keep up with the rate in which pipes have begun to weaken and fail. The City has repaired emergency leaks but the overwhelming challenge is the percentage of lines needing repair, which is due to the age of the majority of the lines in the system. Raising rates further leaves the City still many years away from the repairs required and doing so will leave a significant percentage of ratepayers, who are living in poverty, with monthly bills beyond their means. The City is seeing an increase in rust and sediment in its water, with very old main lines simply beginning to crumble and the problem will continue to worsen.

The City needs immediate assistance to begin to tackle an overwhelming problem. The Main line replacement is key for continued delivery of water as it provides water to all in the City.

Phase 1: Immediate Replacement of mains (\$5 Million):

- Immediate replacement of main lines along Highway 33/140 identified by engineers as priorities for the overall residential system of Water and Sewer.
- The City proposes replacing both the sewer and water lines under the roadway simultaneously in order to save substantially on the costs of digging prior to the project and pavement after.
- The City proposes the entire line along the Highway to reduce impacts to both the travelling public as well as the business community that depends upon the travelers to support its businesses.
- The City expects this portion to be amongst the most costly of the work.
- The completion of the project will ensure a dependable mainline as an important first step.

Phase 2: Replacement of Subsequent Sections by Priority (cost under review):

- The City will begin work on subsequent portions based on priority.
- The City will work to cut costs by completing as many of the sections together as possible.

Necessity: Safe, reliable drinking water and dependable disposal of sewer waste are two of the most important jobs for any City. These tasks become herculean for small, underserved, underfunded communities like Gustine, where growth in sales and property tax have not provided revenue increases. Without assistance, the City will continue to respond to emergencies, which wind up costing the more to repair. Raising rates further drastically affects an already economically disadvantaged community. Replacing this infrastructure is vitally important to the community and its residents now and into the future.

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