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New Braunfels Utilities Laying Infrastructure for New Gruene Water Reclamation Facility

(New Braunfels, TX – March 7, 2019) – New Braunfels Utilities' (NBU) long term strategic plans include a new wastewater treatment plant located in Gruene. The Gruene Water Reclamation Facility is under construction and is scheduled for completion in August 2020.

As New Braunfels continues to develop and grow, additional wastewater treatment plants must be built to treat the wastewater needs of the community's growing population. New Braunfels Utilities is prepared for meet the demands for growth and is currently working on the Gruene Interceptor and Reuse Waterlines capital improvement project.

"Construction crews are digging trenches and laying down a mile of 30-inch sewage line, which will carry wastewater to the new Gruene Water Reclamation Facility," said Mike Short, NBU's Director of Water Services. "Construction crews from Atlas are digging 30 feet down to install the new line and is taking necessary precautions to protect the neighboring waterlines. Crews are able to lay about 30 to 40 feet of pipe each day."

The existing Gruene Wastewater Treatment Plant is located in a flood plain and is at maximum treatment capacity. The new Gruene Water Reclamation Facility, located outside of the flood plain, will have the treatment capacity of up to 2.5 Million Gallons per Day (MGD). The cost for laying the pipeline is about \$5.5 million and is expected to be completed in March 2020, and will consist of two major lines running North and South of the new facility. Costs are projected at approximately \$40 million to open the new Gruene Water Reclamation Facility in August 2020.

The north side sewer line will tie into the Blieders Creek Lift Station which works to move wastewater from lower elevations into higher elevated lines and eventually to the treatment plant. The Blieders Creek Lift Station is at capacity, too; therefore, the new pipe line will help alleviate capacity issues. Currently, NBU is installing a temporary bypass line from the Blieders Creek Lift Station in order to inspect and maintain the existing forcemain that runs from the Lift Station, under the Union Pacific Railroad, and down Torrey Street and Gruene Road. The goal for the inspection is to find and make any necessary repairs that could potentially increase the lift stations' current

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capacity. The south line will extend from the new Gruene Water Reclamation Facility and cross through the intersection of Ewelling Lane and Sleepy Hollow Lane, then continue down Sleepy Hollow, and turn to the northwest before tying into the existing Gruene Wastewater Treatment Plant.

New Braunfels Utilities will lay a 12-inch water reuse line along the same path as the 30-inch sanitary sewer line. Once construction is completed, pavement will be repaired.

“Growth brings unique opportunities,” said Ian Taylor, Chief Executive Office for NBU. “Something most people don’t really want to think about is sewage and wastewater. One of our jobs, at NBU, is to think about long term needs and plan accordingly. The new Gruene Water Reclamation Facility will allow NBU to meet demands now and in the future so customers won’t have to think twice about flushing their toilets.”

Portions of the road will be closed on East Torrey Street to American Street, all day and night, to allow for the Gruene Water Reclamation Facility Interceptor and Reuse Pipeline installation. Lane closures can be expected in the area; however, detours will be clearly marked and all traffic safety and advanced warning signs will be in place. The roads are scheduled to reopen May 31, 2019. Construction questions can be directed to Desirae Medellin, NBU Watering Engineering, at 830.608.8971.

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About New Braunfels Utilities:

Dedicated to excellence in service, New Braunfels Utilities is one of 2,000 community-owned, not-forprofit public power electric utilities in the nation. The mission of New Braunfels Utilities is to enhance the quality of our community by providing innovative, essential services. Governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of local residents appointed by the New Braunfels City Council, New Braunfels Utilities is committed to being a recognized and trusted community partner, providing electric, water, and waste water services. Utility revenues are continually invested back into the systems of the customers, which benefits the community. New Braunfels Utilities makes an annual transfer to the City of New Braunfels, which in turn helps to pay for services such as fire, police, and parks. Follow NBU on Facebook at [newbraunfelsutilities](https://www.facebook.com/newbraunfelsutilities), on Twitter at [nbutility](https://twitter.com/nbutility), and to learn more visit [nbutexas.com](https://www.nbutexas.com).

