



CONSERVATION

WCID 17's contract with the Lower Colorado River Authority ensures an adequate supply of water well into this century. WCID 17 is committed to a strong natural resource stewardship program and recognizes that water conservation is in the best interests of WCID 17, its customers, its neighbors, and the Colorado River watershed.

WCID 17 has adopted a Water Conservation Policy that complies with all applicable state laws and regulations and includes plumbing and irrigation ordinances and drought contingency planning. The District's conservation plan includes public education and information; conservation oriented increasing block rate structure, meter repair and replacement, pressure control, and recycling and reuse programs.

Dry periods are a regular feature of the climate in Central Texas. To safeguard the water supply and to respond to extreme climate or mechanical problems, WCID 17 has a Drought Contingency Plan. This plan addresses triggers for the actions required for varying degrees of drought severity. During summer months, low lake levels, and drought conditions, customers may be required to significantly cut back on outdoor water use.

The WCID 17 plumbing code requires the use of water efficient fixtures in new construction and when replacing old fixtures. The use of Xeriscape and other water efficient landscaping techniques is encouraged. Information about indoor and outdoor water conservation is available through the WCID 17 office and on the District website.

Water District 17 is committed to water quality and customer service. Contact us for assistance with your water or wastewater questions or concerns. This pamphlet contains summary information only. For more detailed information, visit our website at www.wcid17.org or contact the District office at 512.266.1111.



WELCOME TO WCID 17

Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No.17

3812 Eck Lane Austin, Texas 78734

512.266.1111

www.wcid17.org



GENERAL INFORMATION

Travis County Water Control and Improvement District 17 (WCID 17) is a retail non-profit public utility which has been in operation in the South Lake Travis area for over 50 years. While the District is located in Travis County, it is not affiliated with or operated by the County, but is a separate entity.

The District encompasses over 15,000 acres and spans an area from FM 2222 in the north to Highway 71 West in the south. Some areas of the District are unincorporated, but approximately 9,400 acres including all of the Steiner Ranch Defined Area, lie within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city of Austin. The remaining acreage lies within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the cities of Lakeway and Bee Cave. The area north of Mansfield Dam is in the Leander Independent School District, and the remaining service area south of the dam is in the Lake Travis Independent School District.

As a political subdivision of the State of Texas, WCID 17 is a public utility with the rights, powers, privileges and authority established by the general laws of the State of Texas, particularly Chapter 51 of the Texas Water Code. The District is subject to the supervision of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the federal regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

WCID 17 is empowered among other things to purchase, construct, operate and maintain all works, improvements, facilities and plants necessary for the supply and distribution of water; the collection, transportation and treatment of wastewater; and the control and diversion of storm water. WCID 17 is a taxing authority and may issue bonds and other forms of indebtedness to purchase or construct such facilities.

The District is governed by an elected Board of five Directors who have control over and supervision of all affairs of the District. Directors are responsible for setting policy as well as service and tax rates and for hiring a General Manager who is the Chief Administrative Officer in charge of daily operations. The Board approves the annual budget, all capital expenditures and all bond issues. Directors serve staggered four year terms; therefore, elections are held in May every two years.

The Board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the WCID 17 administrative office with additional meetings scheduled when needed. All meetings are open to the public. Customer comments are welcome and encouraged at all meetings.

The daily functions of WCID 17 are handled by a staff that consists of office and



field personnel. The office staff handles management, permitting, and billing. The field staff maintains and repairs the District’s water and wastewater systems. A number of professional consultants, including civil engineers, attorneys and

financial advisors, assist the WCID 17 staff and Board of Directors in their duties.

The Rules and Policies are set out in detail in the Policy Manual. A complete copy is available on the website at www.wcid17.org/aboutus.

REVENUE

WCID 17’s revenue comes primarily from three sources:

RATES AND FEES – These are paid through monthly water and wastewater bills and support the general operations of the District.

WCID 17 has an annual General Operating Fund Budget of approximately \$12,000,000. Other than personnel costs, major expenditures are for the raw water supply and treatment, repairs and maintenance, utilities, insurance, professional services and necessary equipment for operations.

PROPERTY TAXES – WCID 17 accesses a district-wide tax, AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX that repays bonds issued to finance major capital improvements. These funds may also be used to supplement operations and maintenance or to replace or improve older infrastructure.

DEFINED AREA TAXES - Were created in several areas of WCID 17 in which a special ad valorem property tax applies. These areas, called Defined Benefit Areas include the Steiner Ranch development, the Flintrock Falls community, and the Serene Hills community. Defined area bond authorizations initially require voter approval. Defined area taxes are assessed only on those properties within the defined area and are levied in addition to the district-wide tax. This tax money is used to repay bonds issued to install water, wastewater and drainage infrastructure serving the specific defined area.

IMPACT FEES are collected from new, first time connections to the WCID 17 facilities. The impact fee is a one-time fee and is based on the number of living-unit-equivalents, or LUEs, of water or wastewater capacity in the system used by the new connection. Collecting impact fees helps to assure that new additions to the WCID 17 system will pay to construct the capacity they will use, thereby reducing the reliance on bond issues and keeping the district-wide tax rate low.

Impact fees may only be used to finance new infrastructure such as water treatment capacity, tanks, pump stations and large transmission mains. These specific improvements are outlined in a long-term capital improvement plan which is updated every ten years.

REVENUE BONDS – All areas pay the same water rates, but areas such as the Apache Shores Subdivision and the River Ridge Subdivision are operated as Out-of-District areas. These Out-of-District areas pay additional fees which are used to make payments on the revenue bonds that were issued to upgrade their subdivision infrastructures. These revenue bonds are usually low interest loans granted by the Texas Water Development Board.

WATER

Lake Travis, a clear, clean lake protected by some of the most stringent anti-pollution regulations in the state, is the source of the District’s drinking water through a contract with the Lower Colorado River Authority. The District’s state of the art membrane micro filtration water treatment facilities ensure that treated water meets all state and federal health and water quality standards. The District is recognized as a “Superior Public Water System” by the TCEQ. The Eck Lane Water Treatment Plant can produce up to 16 million gallons of water per day.



Water service is available throughout the District, but persons building new homes or seeking service to properties where service has not previously been provided should be aware that new water lines may have to be installed at the customer’s expense. The District’s Policy Manual Rate and Fee Schedule provide additional information.

In many instances, water is also available to persons living or building in areas adjacent to but outside of the District’s boundaries. These areas must be annexed into the taxing boundaries of the District before service can be provided. More information on how to annex property into the District can be found on our website at wcid17.org/annexation.

WASTEWATER

Wastewater service is currently available from the Steiner Ranch, Comanche Canyon Ranch, and Commander’s Point Wastewater Treatment Plants for these areas in the north part of the District. The Flintrock Wastewater Recycling Plant serves the general area south of Murfin Road. It is the long term goal of WCID 17 to provide wastewater service to as many customers as possible;however, because treated wastewater effluent cannot be returned to the Highland Lakes, sufficient irrigation

land must be available before wastewater treatment capacity can be expanded.

STEINER RANCH WASTEWATER RECYCLING PLANT

The Steiner Ranch Wastewater Recycling Plant is designed to treat 1.5 million gallons of wastewater per day. This plant has been operating continuously since the 1980s and serves over 4,000 customers in the Steiner Ranch Defined Area. In the future, this plant will serve some subdivisions in close proximity to Steiner Ranch as well.

The Steiner Plant uses a natural bacterial process in a Sequencing Batch Reactor to treat the wastewater, and a series of disk filters to increase effluent purity. The treated effluent is chlorinated, and pumped to large holding ponds and then used to irrigate the University of Texas Golf Course, the landscaped areas and medians, and the common areas of some subdivisions in Steiner Ranch. Using the recycled water saves from 300-800 thousand gallons of potable water per day in the summer months.

FLINTROCK WASTEWATER RECYCLING PLANT

The Flintrock Wastewater Recycling Plant, located on Lohman’s Spur Road, was completed in 2005 and is designed to treat 500,000 gallons per day. This plant serves customers in the southern areas of the District including the Lake Travis High School/Middle School complex and the Lakeway Regional Medical Center complex.



The Flintrock Recycling Plant uses the same treatment process as the Steiner Recycling Plant. The effluent water is used to irrigate the Flintrock Falls Golf Course and some surrounding common areas.

COMANCHE CANYON RANCH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Comanche Canyon Plant uses a standard bacterial process, can treat 100,000 gallons per day, and was completed in 2005. This plant serves the Oasis restaurant and surrounding development and eventually, will process wastewater from approximately 350 homes in the Comanche Trail area. The Comanche Canyon Wastewater Treatment Plant pumps treated effluent to the City of Austin’s Bull Creek Wastewater Collection System.

COMMANDER’S POINT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The small trickling sand filter plant treats wastewater from properties in the Commander’s Point Subdivision near Mansfield Dam. The treated water is then used to irrigate the surrounding landscaping.