

# WATER WORKS

October 2019



# Bond revenue to fund Sweeney upgrades, new raw water line

Cape Fear Public Utility Authority raised \$107.3 million through the sale of bonds on Oct. 17, 2019. Revenues will fund improvements at Sweeney Water Treatment Plant and CFPUA's portion of the Kings Bluff raw water main project, as well as refinance existing debt to save customers money.

The \$43 million <u>Sweeney Treatment Enhancements Project</u> starts construction next month and will add eight new Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters to effectively remove PFAS resulting from decades of releases by Chemours and DuPont.

CFPUA has <u>filed a lawsuit in federal court</u> against Chemours and Dupont – the companies responsible for discharging PFAS into the Cape Fear River. CFPUA believes those companies, rather than our customers, should pay for the Sweeney improvements and other costs and damages related to the companies' actions.

Another \$15.4 million from the bond sales will help fund construction of <u>a second raw</u> <u>water line</u> from the Kings Bluff Pump Station in Bladen County to Brunswick County, expected to be complete in August 2022. Once the main is operational, CFPUA will have the capacity to draw an additional 15 million gallons per day (MGD) of raw Cape Fear River water.

Repayment of the bonds is expected to add \$5.57 to the average CFPUA residential customer's bimonthly bill, starting next summer. Here's how that breaks down:

Impact on bimonthly bill of average residential customer:

Sweeney improvements \$ 4.42

Raw water line \$ 1.58

Savings from refinancing \$ (0.43)

Total starting July 2020 \$ 5.57

#### New committee focuses on sustainability



The CFPUA Board's newly formed Sustainability Committee held its first meeting Oct. 22. The committee is tasked with helping CFPUA continue to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, protect the area's natural resources, and prepare for

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impacts from climate change.

Dr. Jessica Cannon, County Commissioner Rob Zapple, and Jennifer Adams serve as members.

During their first meeting, committee members heard reports from staff on the organization's ongoing sustainability efforts, including recycling and zero-waste events at CFPUA, an electric vehicle pilot program, and CFPUA's elevation study to monitor future flood risks. Staff also detailed a new partnership with the EPA for a climate change-planning case study and how the CFPUA Energy Team has started tracking the organization's electricity and natural gas use to find energy-saving opportunities and save ratepayers money.

The Sustainability Committee will meet monthly and report to the full board at regular meetings. To see a calendar of board meetings and review meeting materials, visit <a href="https://www.cfpua.org">www.cfpua.org</a>.

<u>History of Sweeney Water Treatment</u>

Plant



Getting the right information at the right time is crucial, especially in emergencies. Get notified by e-mail, text, or voice phone call in the event of emergencies that may affect your water or sewer service. Sign up for CFPUA's alert service: CivicReady powered by Regroup. Click <a href="here">here</a> to get started.

#### **CONTACT US**

Customer Service: (910) 332-6550

Engineering: (910) 332-6560

Human Resources: (910) 332-6570

Water Conservation Hotline: (910) 332-6566 Water/Sewer Emergencies: (910) 332-6565

Email: communications@cfpua.org

### The pink stuff, explained





That slimy pink or pinkish-orange buildup sometimes found in your bathroom and commonly referred to as "pink mold" or "pink mildew" isn't really a mold or mildew at all. It's a type of water-borne bacteria called *Serratia Marcescens*. This bacterium is thought to be the source of a pink residue often found on bathroom fixtures, sinks, shower curtain liners, and along the water line of the toilet bowl.

Serratia Marcescens is a common species of bacteria that occurs naturally throughout the environment, appearing more frequently in humid conditions. The bathroom is the perfect place to find Serratia, because it thrives in moist environments; it needs dampness, mineral deposits, and warm temperatures to grow. The shower area, in particular, is ideal for these bacteria to grow.

Serratia Marcescens is not an indicator of poor water quality in the distribution system. In fact, Serratia will not survive in chlorinated water. The water in CFPUA's distribution system contains enough chlorine to provide safe, disinfected drinking water at your tap. When left standing in an open container for as little as 30 minutes, however, tap water begins to lose its chlorine disinfectant into the atmosphere.

Once established, *Serratia Marcescens* is tough to eliminate. It can be controlled with periodic and thorough cleaning, followed by disinfection with chlorine bleach. Keep bathroom fixtures, sinks and drains dry and free of standing water. Also, pay special attention to shower curtain liners and even your pet's water bowls. Repair shower head leaks, dripping faucets, and running toilets as these common problems provide a constant source of moisture, perfect for bacterial growth

If you have any questions about your water quality or for additional information, call our Water Quality section at (910) 332-6569.

## **Employee Spotlight**

Each month we introduce you to some of the more than 300 employees at CFPUA who work to provide you with the best water and wastewater services.



From left to right: Daniel Sullivan, Lelia Hankins, John Malone, and Norland Moten each received service awards for 30 years of service.

#### Forty-eight employees honored at annual Service Awards Breakfast

This month, rather than featuring one employee in our employee spotlight, we're featuring a group of employees who were recently celebrated at CFPUA's annual Service Awards

Breakfast which was held on September 20. A total of forty-eight employees were honored for their dedicated service. Every department was represented and each employee recognized received a certificate and monetary award based on their years of service. CFPUA celebrated and recognized four employees each with thirty years of service (YOS), two with twenty-five YOS, four with twenty YOS, six with fifteen YOS, nine with ten YOS and 23 with five years of service. Combined, that's 545 years of water and sewer experience serving our community.









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