



September 2023



Water Art Contest for Local Students

CFPUA's second annual Value of Water Art Contest is underway!

Each year, water utilities around the world celebrate "Imagine a Day Without Water." It's a chance to reflect on the value of clean water in

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our daily lives.

CFPUA is celebrating with an art contest for K-12 students living or attending school in New Hanover County. We're asking young artists to answer the question, "What does water mean to you?" with an original artwork.

Winners will be featured in a 2024 calendar, available for free at CFPUA's customer service centers, and in a segment on WECT.

Artworks can be submitted through November 15, 2023. [Click here to find the online submission form and read contest rules.](#)

Winners will be announced in December.

[Sweeney Treatment Enhancements Project](#)



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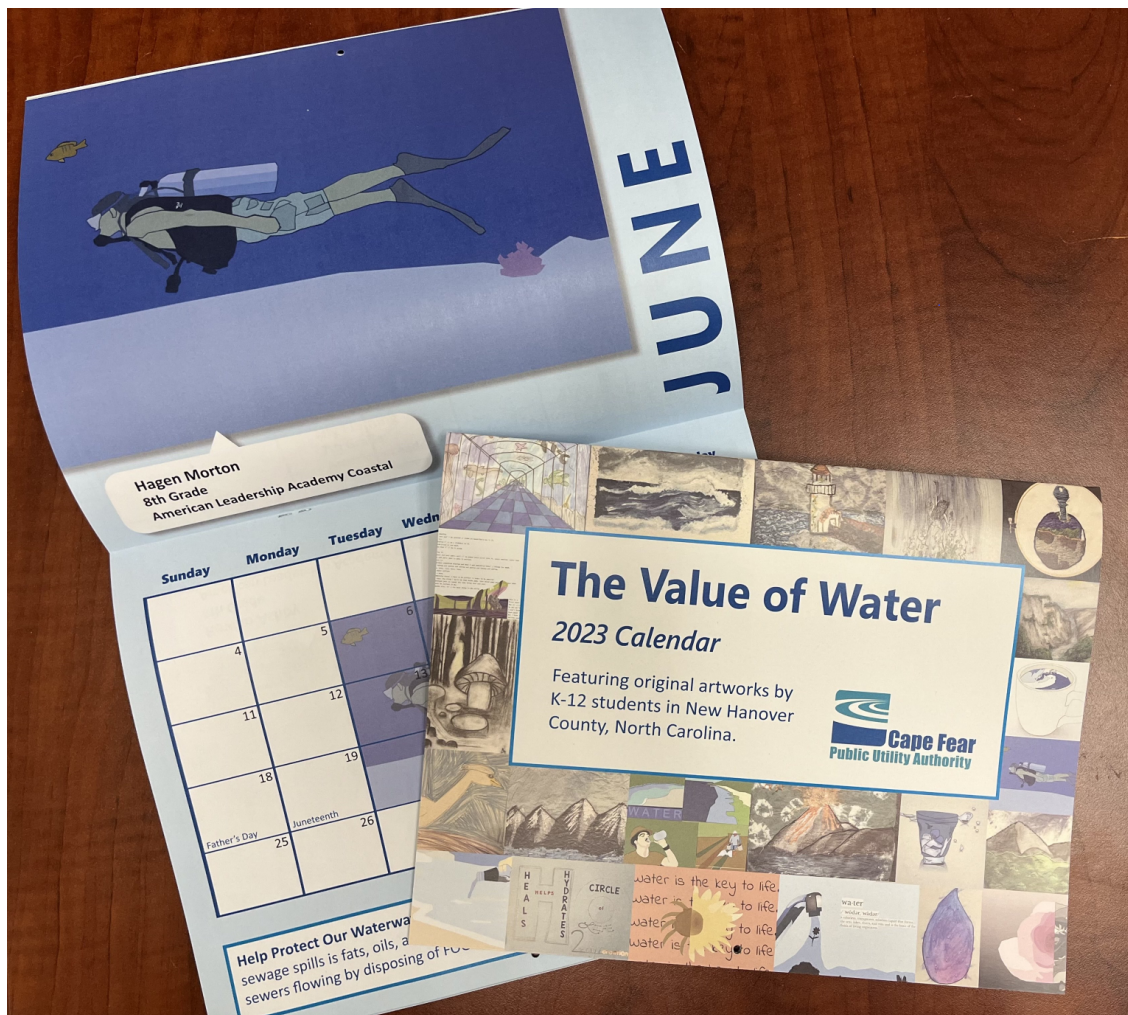
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Learn more about the contest



CFPUA receives \$35 million in State Budget

North Carolina's new State Budget is putting significant funding toward communities affected by PFAS contamination, including \$35 million to help CFPUA serve more people.

On September 22, N.C. General Assembly ratified the [2023 Appropriations Act](#). The budget allocates \$18 million to CFPUA for drinking water extensions “to unserved communities in New Hanover County impacted by PFAS.” This funding will allow CFPUA to advance an ongoing project in partnership with New Hanover County to connect residents currently on private groundwater wells to CFPUA services.

CFPUA also received \$17 million to support regional water and sewer system consolidations. For the past year, CFPUA and the Town of Wrightsville Beach have been exploring the possibility of a system consolidation. If that agreement is approved, this funding would support that effort.

CFPUA appreciates the work of New Hanover County's legislative delegation on behalf of our customers.

[Read more about local infrastructure in the State Budget from Port City Daily.](#)

[Read more about PFAS mitigation funding in the State Budget from WRAL.](#)

Southside Replacement takes first step



CFPUA's largest ever capital project is officially underway.

This month, the CFPUA Board voted to award a \$13,067,660 contract to Crowder Construction Company for Phase 1 Services for the Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement and Upgrade Project.

The project will fully replace CFPUA's Southside Plant, which was constructed in 1972. The project will also expand its treatment capacity from 12 million gallons per day (MGD) to 16 MGD.

Phase 1 services for the design-build project includes an engineering report, site survey, 75 percent design specifications and drawings, permits acquisition,

and other pre-construction work. The \$13 million value of Phase 1 is approximately 5.4 percent of the project's budget of \$240 million.

Phase 1 is expected to be completed by July 2025, with construction on the full project expected to be completed by the start of 2030.

Design-build is a type of project management in which the owner, in this case CFPUA, selects a single team to perform both project design and construction. Historically, design-build expedites and simplifies the delivery of a completed project.

CFPUA has also received a \$35 million low-interest loan from the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Division of Water Infrastructure for the project. This low-interest loan (1.76 percent) from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund will lower the overall amount CFPUA will have to borrow for this project and could reduce the project's impact on the rates CFPUA customers pay for service.

For more information about the Southside Replacement Project, visit [CFPUA.org/Southside](https://cfpu.org/Southside).

Grant helps with water line replacements



The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality this month awarded funding to 30 communities for projects to find and replace water service lines potentially containing lead. CFPUA received the highest award at \$4,161,150.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires every water utility in the country to survey water service lines as part of its updated [Lead and Copper Rule](#), which sets regulations for lead and copper in drinking water.

To date, CFPUA has surveyed 10,500 properties in our service area. While crews have found zero lead water lines, approximately 500 were older, galvanized lines, many of which include a 2-foot section of lead pipe called a gooseneck that connects the water service line to the water main. CFPUA will use this funding to replace those lines.

For more information on our lead service line inventory project, check out [CFPUA's 2021 Drinking Water Quality Report](#).

Employee Spotlight

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



Ethan Walters

Strategy and Performance Analyst

Name: *Ethan Walters*

Birthplace: *Rochester, NY*

Department/Division: *Finance, Strategic Planning*

Position: *Strategy and Performance Analyst*

Length of Employment: *5 months in October*

Briefly describe your typical day at work: *Our strategy team's work often varies depending on the day, but it is always related to a specific project that directly links to CFPUA's strategic plan. Most recently, our team has been hard at work implementing CFPUA's AIMS Portal, which will house all aspects of our business and will be the driving force of our Authority-wide Integrated Management System (AIMS), which will allow CFPUA's many departments to more easily share data and documents.*

What do you enjoy most about your job: *I love learning about our different processes and connecting and working with people across different departments. Every day is an opportunity to learn something new and meet new people.*

Tell us about one of your biggest accomplishments or challenges while working at CFPUA: *Though there is still a lot of work to do, I would say that my biggest accomplishment has been simply seeing the progression of the AIMS Portal to where it is now. When I first joined CFPUA, the AIMS Portal was still in development, and to see it go from an idea to a fully fledged quality management system has been extremely rewarding to watch. Again, there is a lot of work to still be done, but I am very proud of our organization as a whole for how the implementation process has gone so far.*

What advice would you give to recent new hires: *Take it one day at a time. You will be learning so many new things and meeting so many new people at the beginning, and that can be overwhelming, just like with any new job. Give yourself some time to get comfortable, and just remember, we are so happy to have you here!*

What's one thing you'd want customers to know about your department, position, or CFPUA in general: *The level of dedication that CFPUA takes to deliver the highest quality services possible is unmatched. Everything we do has you in mind!*

What do you like to do when you're not at work: *My wife and I recently welcomed our first child back in June, so our lives basically revolve around him right now. When we're not entertaining a four-month-old, I love watching sports, especially football. As a western New*

York native, I am a massive Buffalo Bills fan, and this time of year especially I eat, sleep, and breath everything Bills related!

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