



On the Water Front

May 2020 | A Message from John Balliew, P.E., President/CEO

Key EPWater projects proceed despite pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, essential El Paso Water construction projects – such as the Montana Vista Wastewater Project – are moving forward. The project's first phase delivers first-time wastewater service to nearly 800 homes in the Far East El Paso community.



Despite the pandemic, work progresses on the construction of critical water infrastructure in our community.

On April 20, the first homes in Montana Vista were connected to wastewater service. About 800 homes are in the first phase.

When our City and County issued stay-at-home orders, our workforce was among those deemed essential because we are needed around the clock to keep water and wastewater systems running.

Essential employees on the job

Our employees are essential to providing access to clean water, which is key to preventing the spread of COVID-19. They also make it possible to flush our toilets, an everyday convenience that prevents waterborne diseases in our communities.

For this reason, we are keeping our job sites open because communities, such as Montana Vista, are counting on us.

On April 20, the first flush in Montana Vista marked the culmination of years-long efforts to deliver wastewater service to the community. For decades, residents in the 2,400-plus homes in the community have relied primarily on septic systems for wastewater disposal.

The project was a team effort that required thousands of signatures from residents, a sanctioned health study, working with local and state elected officials and \$12.9 million in financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) Economically Distressed Area Program (EDAP).

Projects such as this one to bring critical wastewater infrastructure to Montana Vista take a lot of time and effort, and they hinge on the support of the community. The project advanced because the community, elected officials and EPWater banded together.

Although Phase I of the project is scheduled to be completed in summer 2021, we continue to seek additional funding to begin Phases II and III.

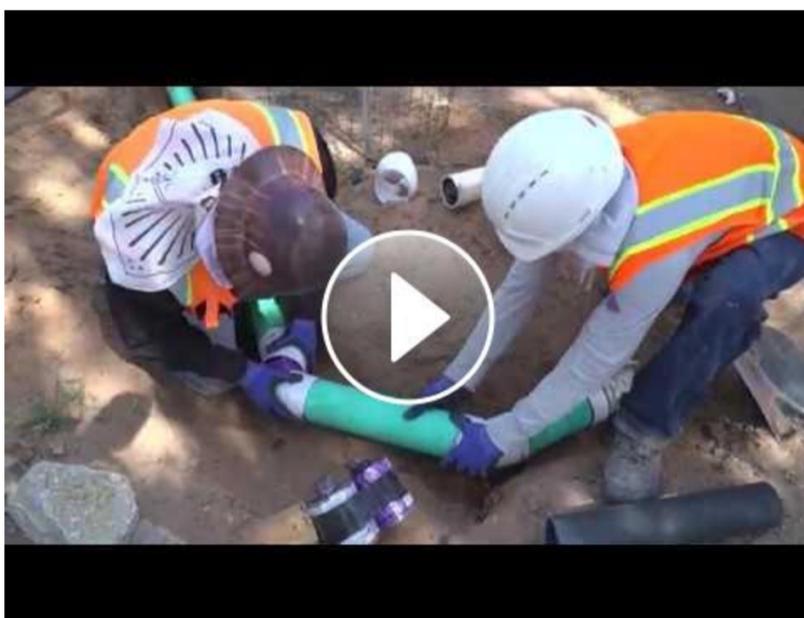
Getting the job done

Despite the pandemic, our customers can rest assured that EPWater is working around the clock to make sure that safe, reliable water flows from our taps, that wastewater service continues without disruption, and that our stormwater system is maintained and prepared to control flooding.

We prioritize the health and safety of our essential workforce, which is carrying out our day-to-day responsibilities of providing safe, reliable water services. Our employees in the field are following social-distancing protocols, making shift adjustments and whenever possible limiting the number of employees in utility vehicles traveling to job sites.

From our water and wastewater plant technicians to customer service representatives, our essential workforce is dedicated to keeping our communities safe and healthy.

Our critical work at job sites will proceed as we continue to supply our customers from the frontlines. Through this pandemic, count on us to remain dedicated to keeping our communities running.



On the Water Front is a publication of El Paso Water. Contact Christina Montoya at 915.594.5596 or cmontoya@epwater.org with any comments or questions.

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