

## Some useful facts...

◆ The North Harris County Regional Water Authority was created by the 76th Texas Legislature to obtain and deliver a long-term supply of drinking water at the lowest responsible cost for the water users within its boundaries in order to comply with Harris Galveston Subsidence District mandates to reduce dependence on groundwater.

◆ The mandate calls for reducing our reliance on groundwater 30 percent by 2010; 70 percent by 2020; and by 80 percent in 2030.

◆ In 2010, our total anticipated water demand will be 80 million gallons a day, of which 24 mgd must come from surface water.

◆ On October 1, 2006, the Authority will increase the groundwater pumpage fee. This revenue will help fund the 2010 surface water delivery infrastructure and cover debt service requirements and bond covenants.

◆ While this is only the third pumpage fee increase in the Authority's six and a half years of operation, *additional increases will occur as the 2010 surface water conversion milestone approaches.*

◆ The individual water districts will continue to supply water to their customers, and everyone throughout the Authority will help pay for the new system and the supply of surface water.



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**The water we conserve today...  
can serve us tomorrow.**

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A vertical blue background with several water droplets of various sizes. The largest droplets are at the top and bottom, while smaller ones are scattered in the middle. The lighting creates highlights and shadows on the droplets, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

# The Rising Cost of Water

An important message from the  
North Harris County Regional  
Water Authority



## **Building a New Water Infrastructure...**

During the past two and a half years, the North Harris County Regional Water Authority has installed almost 29 miles of new water lines throughout our community that will deliver surface water to our neighborhoods for the first time in 2010.

This extensive construction is being undertaken to comply with the Harris Galveston Subsidence District's mandate to reduce dependence on groundwater in order to arrest subsidence and to allow our aquifers to recharge.

The Evangeline Aquifer -- from which we get a significant amount of our groundwater -- recorded a 100 foot decline over a recent 20 year period. Reducing the amount of groundwater pumped from an aquifer can make a significant difference. In fact, the aquifers have begun to rebound and subsidence has stopped in other areas where the Subsidence District's mandate has been accomplished.

The Texas Water Development Board has warned in its report, WATER FOR TEXAS, that the state's days of cheap and plentiful water supplies are coming

to an end. With the depletion of critical aquifers, groundwater resources that we have relied on for decades may be insufficient to meet future needs. Surface water, which is renewable, will help meet the increasing demand, but much of the state's supply is not always readily accessible and is costly to deliver to population centers where it is needed.

## **Water Will Cost More in the Future...**

There is no question that water will cost more in the future -- to acquire, secure and deliver. From the outset, it has been the Authority's strategy that all water users pay their fair share of the costs for construction and for surface water. An excellent long-term water supply contract, negotiated with the City of Houston, supports this "fairness policy".

The Authority is committed to operating cost-effectively, and will remain alert to opportunities to obtain necessary water line easements and property for plants while land is still available and relatively affordable -- compared to what it will cost in the future when the area is more fully developed.

Last year, for example, the Authority partnered with the City of Houston to

construct a major transmission line that will bring surface water from the City's Northeast Water Purification Plant close to the site of the Authority's planned 2010 pumping and storage facility. Constructing this line ahead of schedule has resulted in millions of dollars in savings.

## **Serving the Needs of a Growing Population...**

Our community is growing rapidly. All these new residents will need water, which is driving demand projections -- and costs -- upward. Each year, the Authority's board of directors approves a Capital Improvement Plan. This careful long-range planning process helps to maximize potential cost savings on construction projects.

On October 1, 2006, the Authority will increase the groundwater pumpage fee that appears on most utility district water bills. For an average household that uses 10,000 gallons of water a month, the increase will amount to approximately \$2.50. This modest increase is necessary to continue construction of water delivery infrastructure as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible in order to comply with the nonnegotiable conversion to surface water.