

BARTON CREEK WEST WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

(512) 280-6622

ANNUAL REPORT

April 15, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

Tom Luin - President

Wade Bingaman

Steve Cooper – Vice President

Wallace Harwood

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Paul Roush

Meryl Stoller – Secretary/Treasurer

THE CORPORATION

Barton Creek West Water Supply Corporation is a 1434a Corporation (non-profit in Texas). The members are the homeowners in the service area. The Corporation is governed by a Board of Directors that is elected each April by the members. The Board establishes policy and approves expenditures. The Board meets monthly to review the general business of the Corporation.

The Corporation owns and operates the water distribution system in Barton Creek West, Dominion Hill and Palomino Ridge. Potable water is purchased from the West Travis County Public Utility Agency (PUA) and then distributed to customers. The West Travis County Regional Water system was acquired from the LCRA by the PUA on March 19, 2012, and the water contracts between the Corporation and the LCRA have been assigned to the PUA.

The Corporation owns and operates the wastewater collection and treatment system that serve Barton Creek West, West Ridge Middle School and Barton Creek Elementary. The wastewater system includes collection lines/pump stations, wastewater treatment plant, irrigation pond and the irrigation fields, all of which are located within Barton Creek West.

Bookkeeping, billing and plant operation are performed by TUMCO Consultants, Inc. The Corporation's consulting engineer's position continues with the engineering firm of Malone /Wheeler, Dennis Lozano being the principal engineer currently working on district business.

WATER RATES

Monthly Water Service and Volumetric rates have been held constant since January 1, 2013. After review of our current costs and capital expense, the board of directors is planning an increase to our water rates that would start in June this summer. This water rate adjustment has become necessary due to increased operational and repair costs. A recent example is the replacement of 3 original fire hydrants

in the neighborhood that failed recent testing at a cost of \$45K. We have worked diligently to minimize the impact of these expenses, and keep these rates lower than other utilities who also get raw water from the WTCPUA. However, the current projected shortfall in our capital repair plan costs is driving this needed rate increase.

These new rates are aligned with the local WTCPUA structure, but are still significantly lower than what a WTCPUA retail customer pays today on rates. For example, the PUA charges an \$81 base fee and \$5.87 for gallonage between 10k and 25k/month, where our new proposed rates are only \$22 base fee and \$4.55 in comparison.

The projected increase for BCWWSC water, for customers using <25k gallons/month is estimated to be up to +16% higher on these new rates. The board has tried to minimize the impact to our average customer, but the rates are much steeper at higher usage tiers (following WTCPUA conservation standards). We encourage all customers to take action now to conserve water use as we continue under stage 2 drought restrictions into this summer. Here is a summary of the new proposed rates.

Base Fee: The standard residential connection is \$22.00. This is a minimum flat rate per connection for all or any part of the month.

Volumetric Fee: Charges based on usage are as follows:

- 0 to 10,000 gallons \$ 4.25/1000 gallons
- 10,001 to 25,000 gallons \$ 4.55/1000 gallons
- 25,001 to 40,000 gallons \$ 5.66/1000 gallons
- 40,001 to 100,000 gallons \$ 8.00/1000 gallons
- More than 100,001 gallons \$ 15.00/1000 gallons

WASTEWATER RATES

New Monthly Wastewater Service rates became effective September 1, 2023. The increase was required to fund the rehabilitation of our aging wastewater system and to maintain prudent capital reserves for future planned capital expenses. The last rate change had occurred March 1, 2020.

The following charges apply to all wastewater service accounts:

Base Fee: A base charge of \$173.00 will be assessed.

Volumetric Fee: The following charges will be assessed based on the average water use for December, January and February. \$1.70/1000 gallons

For new accounts with no winter average, the volumetric fee for the first year will be based on average water use of 11,500 gallons

For a detailed breakdown of all the current rates and fees, these are posted on our website.

<https://bartoncreekwestwsc.com/rates-and-policies>

UTILITY SYSTEM MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

The wastewater plant was briefly taken down in November 2021 for inspection to determine the timing and extent of the next refurbishing needed to keep it operating efficiently and within our TCEQ permit specifications. The board of directors and Tumco, with guidance from Malone/Wheeler, determined the most cost-effective approach is to rehab our existing infrastructure with an initial cost estimate about \$1.5M. The rehab project documentation and specifications phase, was started in March 2024 by Malone/Wheeler. This beginning phase defined the project scope, requirements and bid specification. It also supports increased project cost based on improved additional estimating, prior to receiving formal contractor bids. The board of directors approved the 270+ page bid documentation package during our March board meeting. The next step is legal review before the documentation package is released for contractor bidding. Once a bid and contractor are selected, it will take approximately one year to fully complete the project. There is expected to be no service interruption to any customers during this project.

The Corporation has continued its long term, pro-active program of offering a video evaluation to each homeowner/customer, at no charge, to determine if the homeowner wastewater service line is being affected by intruding tree roots. This program was initiated to provide homeowners a way to identify any potential clogging problems on the wastewater service lines running from their house. It has resulted in the discovery of multiple problem areas and allowed those homeowners to avoid costly damage to their houses.

TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) ACTIVITY

The TCEQ amended the BCW WSC wastewater operating permit to accommodate our request to eliminate fecal coliform testing that is no longer relevant or required. The new permit will be renewed on May 10, 2030.

2024 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

The annual water quality report and testing data was published in June 2024, as required by TCEQ for all testing in 2023, along with the previous 4 years of testing data. The results of all tests exceeded state and federal requirements for our drinking water during the previous 5 years.

The following documents have been updated, approved, and published or newly created to clarify and improve operating procedures and financial decision making;

- 2024 Financial Statements review was completed by Reynolds & Franke, PC (auditing firm)
- BCW WSC Rate Schedule and Service Regulations
- Long-Term Capital Plan (reviewed monthly)

End.