

To: The Sunset Advisory Commission

From: The Woodlands Water Agency

December 6, 2022

Good morning. My name is Bob Lux.

I am a twenty-five-year resident of Montgomery County, Texas, and am currently the President of Montgomery County Municipal Utility District (MUD) 60 as well as the President of The Woodlands Water Agency (**WWA**) Board of Trustees.

The WWA is the operations and administration agency for ten (10) municipal utility districts located within the boundaries of The Woodlands, TX. Each MUD is responsible for providing **retail** potable water, sewer, and drainage services to their customers in The Woodlands. The WWA serves a population of over 115,000 residents, approximately 35,000 equivalent single-family connections, numerous commercial and retail businesses, institutions, other utility users and a tax base of over \$23.5 B.

Since 1975, The Woodlands MUDs have contracted with the San Jacinto River Authority for the responsibility of owning and operating the **wholesale** water supply and wastewater treatment systems serving The Woodlands.

Over the decades, these contracts have evolved into a true working partnership.

A few, but not all, of the many examples of this partnership between The Woodlands Water Agency and San Jacinto River Authority are as follows:

- Each year SJRA transparently provides a thorough, comprehensive, itemized review of revenues and expenses resulting in proposed wholesale fees to the WWA for the upcoming Fiscal Year. The process begins in March and is voted upon by each MUD in August.
- Several members of the SJRA staff attend each of the ten (10) monthly MUD meetings, as well as the monthly WWA Trustees meeting. The SJRA staff provides complete detailed reports on revenues, expenses, and other activities of the SJRA Woodlands and GRP Divisions. Additionally, these professionals communicate extensive technical and related information, they patiently, professionally, and transparently answer numerous questions posed not only the elected directors and trustees but also resident customers in attendance at these meetings as well as after meetings. They are always available and willing to answer all questions.

- Several members of the SJRA staff participate and collaborate with the WWA Public Education committee during regular monthly meetings. This collaboration ensures that a uniform and consistent messaging is being delivered to our retail customers.
- SJRA Woodlands Division is currently managing and leading a comprehensive 50-year planning horizon for wholesale wastewater operations and related infrastructure renewal, updating or consolidation options.
- SJRA Woodlands Division prepared and delivered a 10-year capital improvement plan (\$370 million+) for water and wastewater system infrastructure maintenance and renewal plan. This plan is updated annually.
- SJRA Flood Management Division is leading a storm water detention study (with multiple WWA MUDs as well as other external funding partners) to examine potential flood damage mitigation options for property and residents along Spring Creek.
- SJRA Flood Management Lake Conroe Division is managing an \$11 million TWDB loan to complete a flood mitigation improvement project along Bear Branch, Panther Branch and Research Forest Drive in The Woodlands.

- SJRA is leading efforts through Congressman Crenshaw's office to obtain Federal funds for a Flood Control Dam Renovation project at the Bear Branch Creek reservoir.
- As partners SJRA and WWA have overcome severe natural disasters, such as Hurricane Harvey and Super Storm Uri. Together we have fulfilled our pledge to our customers without service interruption or boil water notice requirements.

I could go on but in the interest of time will summarize by saying the SJRA is a dedicated, competent organization which promptly, cooperatively, transparently, and professionally fulfills the current and long-term needs of their customers. In short, customers in The Woodlands have very high expectations, and the SJRA has consistently met those expectations.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of The Woodlands Water Agency.