

PEACE RIVER MANASOTA REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
Expanding our Regional Drinking Water Supply and Delivery System

Regional Integrated Loop Pipeline System
Phase 1A Interconnect Pipeline Project
Charlotte County

- Project provides enhanced drinking water service to Charlotte County, and a regional tie-in with City of Punta Gorda water system.
- Questions/Concerns Contact (PRMRWSA):
 - Susan Hochuli, Project Manager: 941-316-1776
 - Tom Dobbs, Construction Manager: 863-491-7567

Owner: Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority

Engineer: DMK Associates, Inc.

Contractor: Garney Companies, Inc.

What is the project?

Major components include construction of 24-inch (2-foot) diameter drinking water pipe, a pumping station and a water storage tank.

Why is the project needed?

The new regional water pipeline will provide enhanced drinking water service to Charlotte County and a regional tie-in with the City of Punta Gorda water system.

Who is paying for the project?

The project is funded by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the State of Florida Water Restoration Action Plan, and the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority.

How much is the project costing?

Total project cost is \$20 million with over 60% in grant funding.

Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
6311 Atrium Drive, Suite 100, Bradenton, Florida 34202
941-316-1776 office; 941-316-1772 fax; www.regionalwater.org

Who is the County and/or City contact for the project?

Ms. Terri Kesner, Charlotte County Utilities.
Mr. Tom Jackson, City of Punta Gorda Utilities.

When will the project be done?

The construction of all the project components is scheduled to be completed by Summer 2012.

Who will be on the project site?

Project personnel you may see include representatives from the project owner (Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority), the construction team (Garney Companies), the engineering team (DMK Associates), utilities such as FPL, personnel from the City of Punta Gorda, and Charlotte County, staff from Seminole Gulf Railway, as well as representatives from local, state and federal regulatory agencies.

Where will the pipeline be installed, and the pumping station and water tank be located?

The pumping station and the water tank will be located south of the Peace River in Cleveland at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Disston Avenue, adjacent to County Fire/EMS station no. 6.

The pipe corridor is 12-miles long of 24-inch (2-feet) diameter drinking water transmission pipeline that will be installed underground. In general, the pipe route is east of Interstate-75 from the Charlotte/DeSoto county line to the City of Punta Gorda Water Treatment Facility in southeast Charlotte County and is comprised of two sub-areas, a 9-mile-long northern area and a 3-mile-long eastern area. Affected roads and landmarks over the northern 9-mile long corridor includes: Kings Highway; Sandhill Boulevard; Capricorn Boulevard; Luther Road; Harborview Road; Discovery Drive, and View Drive; Balboa Canal and Peace River; un-improved Hollyman Avenue; Riverside Drive; Scott Avenue (improved and un-improved); U.S. Highway 17; Disston Avenue. For the second sub-area, the 3-mile corridor is along South Washington Loop Road from U.S. Highway 17 to the City Water Facility.

Is the pipeline going to be above ground or buried?

It is a buried drinking water pipeline.

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What kind of construction activities will there be?

1. site clearing
2. vegetation pruning, trimming and removal where required
3. removing and re-locating of existing fences
4. installing construction site fencing
5. erosion protection using silt barrier fencing
6. above-ground marking of buried utilities including for electrical, traffic, water, wastewater, reclaimed water, gas, fiber optic, telephone, cable lines
7. above-ground marking of construction areas using wooden stakes
8. equipment to temporarily remove water from the area where the contractor is digging, the water will be discharged as the regulations require
9. materials delivery for pipe, fittings, valves, crushed stone, concrete
10. equipment delivery such as excavators, back-hoe, dump-truck for digging trenches to allow the pipe to be installed
11. survey markers
12. excavation for and installation of the pipeline and restoration activities
13. for in-water construction activities, Balboa Canal and Peace River, several construction crews will working in or near the water using large-scale equipment such as boats, barges, cranes, vibratory hammers, 80-foot tall man-lifts, clam-shell excavator, pipe-fusion machine, and front-end loader/forklift. Please see “What will happen in the Balboa Canal?” and “What will happen in the Peace River?” for additional information.

What will the pipe construction areas look like when finished?

Areas disturbed by the construction activities will be restored to pre-construction condition, re-seeded or re-vegetated, and fences re-installed or re-located as needed.

Some items will be permanently located at ground level or above-ground along the 12-mile length of the pipe route. Ground level items include small square concrete pads and manhole access points. Above-ground items include valves that allow trapped air to be expelled or ‘burped’ from the pipe, identification markers that show where the buried pipe is located.

Are any environmentally sensitive areas being disturbed by this project?

Yes. As required by federal, state and county regulations, all efforts have been taken and will continue to minimize disturbances to environmentally sensitive areas. Along the 12-mile long corridor, the project includes temporary wetland disturbances such as to roadside swales and herbaceous areas and a minor amount of permanent effects at the north and south points to the Peace River. Wetland vegetation will naturally re-grow in the disturbed wetland areas.

Wildlife such as the abundant number of gopher tortoises along the Harborview Road/Discovery Drive areas will be either permanently moved off-site to a new, regulated gopher tortoise home or temporarily restricted in a safe area on-site while active construction occurs.

Waterborne wildlife, such as manatees and smalltooth sawfish, in the Balboa Canal and Peace River will be monitored for and protected through measures identified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

What will happen in Balboa Canal?

In addition to activities described above in “What kind of construction activities will there be?”, approximately 500 feet of pipeline will be installed within the 60-foot wide Balboa Canal. These activities will include

1. continuous protection and monitoring measures for other users of the canal including boaters and marine life such as manatees
2. delivery, via truck of required materials (sheet pile, pipe, valves, fittings, turbidity barriers) and equipment (clam-shell excavators, vibratory hammers, pipe-fuser, barges, boats)
3. transporting crew, materials and equipment from land (Harborview Drive, Discovery Drive and View Drive)
4. installation of a temporary trestle, to be in place for approximately 3 months, the full canal length to allow pipe installation - we will coordinate with canal homeowners and boaters for use of the temporarily-narrowed canal
5. installation of temporary sheet piling the full canal length to provide a continuous 6-foot wide, open-end sheet-piled trench; sheet piling will be marked with appropriate lighting to ensure visibility at night
6. installation of the pipeline
7. dirt and material (spoil) removed from the canal’s 6-foot wide trench will be temporarily stockpiled along View Drive right-of-way then placed back in the trench following pipe installation
8. removal of the temporary sheet pile
9. remove temporary trestle, equipment and remaining materials from staging areas

What will happen in the Peace River?

In addition to activities described above in “What kind of construction activities will there be?”, approximately 6,700 feet of pipeline will be installed within the Peace River. These activities will include

1. continuous protection and monitoring measures for other users of the canal and river including boaters marine life such as manatees

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2. delivery, via truck, of required materials (sheet pile, pipe, valves, fittings, turbidity barriers) and equipment (barges, clam-shell excavators, vibratory hammers, pipe-fuser, boats)
3. transporting crew, materials and equipment between land and water areas, setting up from south side of river (Hollyman Avenue)
4. installation of a temporary 30-foot long trestle on the south side of the river where unimproved Hollyman Avenue meets the Peace River to load/un-load equipment, material and personnel from the shore to barges and boats
5. starting where Balboa Canal meets the Peace River, install and remove metal sheet pile as needed to enable pipe installation; sheet piling and barges will be marked with appropriate lighting to ensure visibility at night
6. from north to south, install pipe using a barge-mounted, hydraulic clam-shell-bucket excavator; gravel-filled saddle-weights will be used to keep the submerged pipe in place
7. dirt and material (spoil) removed from the river's 6-foot wide sheet-piled-trench will temporarily stockpiled alongside the in-river trench and be placed back in the trench following pipe installation
8. remove temporary trestle, equipment and remaining materials from staging areas

How long will the work take in the canal and in the river?

14 months in total. Initially, we will stage work, materials and equipment on both the north side, within Balboa Canal, and on the south side of the river, from Hollyman Avenue. Pipe installation work will begin in Balboa Canal and continue south across the river.

How will boating activities in the canal or in the river be affected?

Our construction activities are coordinated with appropriate agencies including the United States Coast Guard. Balboa Canal and the Peace River will remain open to boat traffic and we will coordinate with boaters and nearby residences throughout the project.

When finished, will there be anything visible in the canal or in the river?

Yes. The pipeline requires a permanent, above-the-water air release valve mechanism that allows trapped air to be expelled or 'burped' from the pipe. This valve will be located outside of the river's navigation channel on a set of pilings. Per U.S. Coast Guard requirements, the piling structure will be lighted around-the-clock, have appropriate signage and be perpetually protected from river traffic by concrete columns or something similar.

