

# Southlake Journal

## Southlake awards \$6.7 million contract for 30-inch water line

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SOUTHLAKE - Construction could start this month on a 30-inch waterline that's been in the works for about 15 years.

Councilman Al Zito called it a "monumental moment" for Southlake, which has struggled in recent summers to meet water demand.

The City Council awarded the \$6.7 million contract to Circle C Construction on Tuesday.

The segment will stretch 19,665 feet, or 3.7 miles, from Texas 114 along Farm Road 1938 to Florence Road.

Construction is expected to be completed by April 2013, but the contract includes incentives of up to \$500,000 for an early finish.

That would give Southlake time to get the waterline operational before demand peaks in summer 2013, said Bob Price, director of public works.

This is the final segment needed to connect the pumping station on Pearson Lane and Southlake Boulevard to the one on T.W. King Road in north Southlake. The pipeline is about 5 miles long.

"We will be able to bring water directly to the north end of the city, creating a more efficient use of our water system," Price told the council.

Southlake's water capacity will increase from 22 million gallons per day to 29 million.

Currently, water that enters the city has to be pumped twice, making it difficult to keep up with peak demand, Price said.

The contract also includes a 12-inch distribution line stretching 3,400 feet that will supply water to neighborhoods along Randol Mill Avenue in Southlake.

Price said the project has been in the works for so long because so many municipalities were involved and had to agree on the details.

Southlake, Westlake and Fort Worth, the water supplier, have spent years hammering out the deal. A year ago, the cities reached an agreement allowing Westlake to buy up to 2 million gallons of water from the pipe as growth warrants.

Westlake must install its own meter before tapping into the pipe.

The final part of the agreement, allowing Southlake to build the line on property owned by Westlake, was adopted on the consent agenda Tuesday. Westlake's Town Council approved it in January.

By placing the line along FM 1938, Price said the city won't have to cut through neighborhoods.

Westlake Town Manager Tom Brymer said this is a great example of governments working together.

"Southlake can utilize Westlake's right-of-way and be able to avoid spending unnecessary time and money acquiring easements to put in a much needed water line," Brymer said. "In turn, Westlake has access to water from this water line" if Westlake's growth outpaces its central pump station's capacity.

While the project won't generate as much buzz as a new park, Councilwoman Pamela Muller said it will help Southlake maintain a constant water level in its storage tanks.

When the level falls below 18 feet in the city's three tanks for three consecutive days, Southlake implements Stage 1 water restrictions.

In 2011, the city moved to Stage 1 on July 25, a month before most Tarrant County cities.

That highlighted the need for the 30-inch line as the city issued hundreds of citations and thousands of warnings for watering.

"That kind of infrastructure, people don't see and they don't miss unless they don't have it," Muller said. "It's very vital to the water system throughout the city."

The new line won't mean an end to water restrictions because Southlake will still be required to enforce restrictions whenever Fort Worth does.

Filling the tanks faster could prevent the city from running out of water to fight fires, Muller said.

Staff writer Susan McFarland contributed to this report

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