



**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD MEETING
AGENDA ITEM
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

SUBJECT

Emergency Hickerson WWTP 48-inch Pipeline Replacement Project

BACKGROUND

On December 8, 2025, during construction activities on an on-going project at the John T. Hickerson Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), operations staff identified a pinhole leak along with signs of advanced pitting and deterioration on the critical 48-inch process pipeline. This line conveys all influent wastewater flows to treatment train 2 and cannot be diverted.

The pipeline's condition presents a high risk of sudden failure. Work was immediately halted, however the pipeline remains at risk of failure. After initial assessment by plant staff and design engineers, it has been recommended that the deteriorated pipeline be replaced. Pursuant to the President/CEO delegated authority to enter into emergency agreements, EPWater entered into emergency agreements to install a bypass system, perform a condition assessment, perform a full pipeline replacement and any other ancillary work necessary at the Hickerson WWTP to mitigate risk and ensure uninterrupted treatment capabilities at the plant.

PRIOR PSB ACTION

- None

UTILITY KPI ALIGNMENT

Infrastructure Performance

EVALUATION PROCESS

The emergency expenditures for this project are necessary to preserve or protect the public health or safety of EPWater's customers under Section 252.022(a)(2) of the Texas Local Government Code and are necessary because of unforeseen damage to public machinery, equipment or other property under Section 252.022(a)(3) of the Texas Local Government Code and are exempt from the state bidding requirements.

Contractors, consultants, and vendors were selected based on their emergency response capabilities, relevant experience with large-diameter pipeline replacement, and immediate mobilization capacity. Oversight will be provided by EPWater engineering and operations staff to ensure alignment with performance and safety standards.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Sufficient funds are available in various accounts. This expenditure is part of the FY2025-26 budget.

PROPOSED ACTION REQUESTED

Presentation and discussion of the Emergency Hickerson WWTP 48-inch Pipeline Replacement Project and emergency agreements approved under the President/CEO's delegated authority; and that the Board finds that the emergency agreements were necessary to protect public health and safety and to address unforeseen damage under Texas Local Government Code 252.022(a)(2) and (a)(3).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED

- None