

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN COMPLIANCE WITH TCEQ REQUIREMENTS

A TCEQ representative from Lubbock conducted an investigation of the City's wastewater treatment facility on February 9th, 2012 and documented multiple violations which included violation of provisions of our Discharge Permit and various other TCEQ regulations concerning operation of our wastewater treatment facility.

The City received notification of the violations by letter on May 15th, 2012. Because of a lack of action on the part of the City the Executive Director of TCEQ filed an enforcement action against the City on February 18th, 2014. Among other things the petition for the enforcement action recommended an administrative penalty of \$15,862.00 and certain ordering provisions requiring corrective actions be taken. The Commission could have assessed penalties amounting to \$10,000 per day for certain violations and \$25,000.00 per day for others.

During the time period between the original investigation and the enforcement action the course of action recommended for the City was to construct a new wastewater treatment facility known as a facultative lagoon system. The cost of this new system was estimated to be in the \$2,000,000 price range.

The City applied for a water board grant to construct this facility but was unsuccessful in obtaining a grant and was only offered a low interest loan to make these improvements. This is something the City could not afford.

At the time of the denial of the grant the City hired a new City Manager and shortly thereafter a new Public Works Director. The new City Manager set about negotiating an Agreed Upon Order with TCEQ and along with the new Public Works Director completing all required corrections in order for the City to not only come into compliance with all regulations but also to eliminate the \$15,862.00 administrative penalty.

The total cost for all corrective action on the part of the City was \$68,404.34. The City did not need to build a new \$2,000,000 facility to correct the problems.

On September 15th, 2015 the City received notification from TCEQ that all requirements of the Agreed Upon Order had been satisfied. This ends the current enforcement action against the City by TCEQ. All violations have been corrected.