



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: SAWS Emergency Interconnect Project Update
DATE: November 6, 2025
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: Steven Fried, Assistant Director of Public Works

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The SAWS Emergency Interconnect, a Capital Improvement Project, aims to improve water system resiliency by establishing an emergency connection to the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). The interconnect will provide the City with a backup water supply source to pressure Zone C in the event of pressure loss, system failure, extended power outage, or other emergencies.

On February 26, 2025, the City entered into a professional services agreement with K Friese & Associates, LLC (now operating as Lochner) for engineering design in the amount of \$49,995.00. During the design phase, the consultant determined that the planned interconnect location at the intersection of Fair Oaks Parkway and the IH-10 Frontage Road was not feasible due to the steel encasement of the SAWS main. It was also determined that utility easements would need to be acquired from Frost Bank. Due to these challenges, the proposed interconnect will now be located at Leslie Pfeiffer Drive within existing utility easements, and closer to the existing SAWS water main. The 12-inch interconnect is appropriately sized to fully support pressure Zone C at its highest elevation during an extended outage. The interconnect also would position the City to become a SAWS wholesale water customer in the future if anticipated GBRA water supply does not materialize.

The new location is along the property line of the new Cinco De Mayo Restaurant and the restaurant needs to upsize a portion of the existing water main to achieve fire flow requirements. Therefore, staff initiated discussions to identify cost-sharing opportunities that could benefit both parties. Preliminary discussions indicate that cost-sharing of the interconnect project could improve project efficiency, reduce duplication of work, and minimize disruption along the construction corridor. The developer has verbally agreed to contribute \$50,000 toward the City's project – approximately equal to the cost they would have incurred to install a separate 6-inch line.

Staff seeks City Council direction regarding the revised project scope and relocation of the 12-inch interconnect to Leslie Pfeiffer Drive. Pending Council direction, staff will:

- Nov 2025 - Execute design contract amendment and continue coordination with SAWS
- Dec 4, 2025 – Present the SAWS Interconnect Agreement and resolution to City Council accepting the restaurant contribution
- Feb 2026 – Publish bid opportunity
- March 2026 – Award of construction agreement

- May 2026 – Construction start
- June 2026 – Construction completes

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

- Supports Priority 3.1 of the Strategic Action Plan to Enhance and Ensure Continuity of Reliable Water Resources
- Provides a backup source of water in the event of pressure loss, system failure or other emergencies
- Positions the City to become a SAWS wholesale customer in the event that future anticipated water supply from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority does not materialize

LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

The City budgeted \$30,000 in FY 2024-25 and \$352,340 in FY 2025–26 for this project. The cost for the engineering amendment, including a new survey, water line design, bid and construction phase services, is \$40,695, bringing the total cost for engineering services to \$90,690. The estimated construction cost is \$352,340 which includes 20% contingency. With Cinco De Mayo's financial contribution, the City's total project cost is estimated at \$393,030.00.

The SAWS Interconnect Agreement will provide the terms, each party's responsibilities, and detailed rates and fees. Currently, the estimated monthly meter charge is \$613.72. The water usage rate, as needed, will be billed at the higher of the SAWS or FORU residential water rate, based on total usage.