

What is the WHCRWA?

The **WHCRWA** on your bill stands for **West Harris County Regional Water Authority**. The WHCRWA charge can be found on your water bill as a fee that was established as a result of the state of Texas implementing a bill that was approved by the 77th Texas Legislature, and signed into law by Governor Perry on May 28, 2001. The law that the legislation passed, requires the MUD districts to pay for bringing surface water to the areas and customers MUD's service that had previously been using well water.

The project was created to accomplish the following goals: provide surface water to replace the use of groundwater, the reduction of groundwater withdrawals, the conservation, preservation, protection, recharge and prevention of waste of groundwater and groundwater reservoirs, the control of subsidence caused by withdrawal of water from those groundwater reservoirs, and other public purposes stated in the Act.

What does that mean to you? Basically, it involves substantial new infrastructure from Lake Houston. We can't continue to rely on ground water for a couple of reasons. First, we are exhausting the supply of groundwater and yet another problem with excessive groundwater use is subsidence—the phenomenon where the ground sinks over time as water is pumped out. Subsidence threatens the foundation of homes and will create flooding risks if not addressed, according to officials with the Harris County Flood Control District. None of this is new to us, as we have been talking about this in our newsletters for several years and the Community Impact Newspaper has had several articles about this as well.

We understand this is a financial impact and as a MUD we only pass on to the customer what we are charged from WHCRWA. Please, remember that this is not part of the Harris County government and gets none of its funds from Harris County property tax, nor does it have any taxing authority. All of its funding for the entire project is derived from the fee on water usage.

Officials with the West Harris County Regional Water Authority will increase rates another \$0.20 per 1000 gallons of water in 2017. So, with the rising cost of our water and as quickly as our area is growing, we need to remember that if we did nothing and continued using the ground water as we have in the past, our water supply in this area over the next 10-15 years could possibly dry up. For more information please visit <http://www.whcrwa.com>