



# On the Water Front

January 2017 | A Message from John Balliew, P.E., President/CEO

## Looking Forward to 2017: Construction and Improvements across El Paso

The Public Service Board (PSB) recently approved our water, wastewater, reclaimed water and stormwater budget, enabling us to tackle a number of critical improvement projects to better serve our community.

### Water and Wastewater

The \$463.7 million budget allows EPWater to rehabilitate and expand systems to meet the needs of El Paso's growing population. We will take the initial steps toward increasing the capacity of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant. We will also begin designing the planned Advanced Water Purification Facility. The first-of-its-kind facility will transform treated wastewater into purified water, a drought-proof, reliable and safe source of water for El Paso. The third phase of the Mesa Street Water Line replacement project is also included the budget, which will address frequent main breaks and improve reliability for the area.



Haskell R. Street Wastewater Treatment Plant built in 1923.

On the wastewater side, we will begin extensive rehabilitation of portions of the Haskell R. Street Wastewater Treatment Plant. Built in 1923, major work over multiple years is required to modernize the plant while addressing serious odor control issues. While odor is an inevitable byproduct of wastewater treatment plants, we are sensitive to community concerns and have prioritized completion of a two-year, \$25 million investment in plant odor controls.

### Stormwater

The \$55 million stormwater budget will help us continue to improve flood control in central El Paso while also shifting focus to new projects in the northeast, west and Mission Valley areas. Several key projects include:

- Construction of the Fairbanks Sediment Catch Structure to slow down rapid stormwater flows from the Franklin Mountains, and hold sediment and rocks that currently flow onto neighborhood streets.
- Significant expansion of Thomas Manor pond in the Mission Valley along with a new pump station to decrease the flood risk for the area. EPWater is collaborating with the City of El Paso, which is making park improvements, and Ysleta Independent School District, which is making improvements to the nearby Thomas Manor Elementary School.

We will complete several other stormwater projects this year, including the Kentucky Dam in central and the Grand Teton Drive Pond in west El Paso, both of which will capture runoff from the Franklin Mountains, keeping it off the streets. We will finish the Gateway East Pond by July, completing the ongoing Gateway West/East Pond project and further reducing I-10 flooding.

Keep your eyes open for our crews on the streets as they continue to tackle these projects and more in the coming months. Their efforts are part of our commitment to provide safe, reliable service for our community for years to come.



On the Water Front is a publication of El Paso Water.  
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