Collaboration Between Agencies that Assembled a Funding Method to Successfully Abandon Failing Septic Tanks in Underserved Communities

Harris County Engineering Department

August 16, 2023
AGENDA

• **Background** – What is the need?
• **Funding** – What are the funding options?
• **Partnerships** – What partnerships help facilitate projects?
• **Project Progress** – What constitutes Success?
• **Questions?**
Background - What is the Need?

- Older, low-income neighborhoods on small lots with open channel drainage
- Residents are primarily served by shallow water wells and septic tanks
- Many septic tanks are failing and discharging raw sewage into the yards and the roadside ditches which flow into the bayous
- Shallow water wells become contaminated
Funding – What are the funding options?

- Bonds – East Aldine Management District (EAMD), Airline Improvement District (AID)
- Texas Water Development Board’s Economically Distressed Areas Program (TWDB EDAP)
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Corona Virus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF)
Partnerships – What partnerships help facilitate projects?

- **Bond-Funded Projects**
  - EAMD/AID and a Utility Service Provider (COH, MUD)
  - EAMD/AID and Harris County (for bidding and construction management)

- **TWDB EDAP-Funded Projects**
  - EAMD/AID and TWDB
  - EAMD/AID and a Utility Service Provider (COH, MUD)
  - EAMD/AID and Harris County (for bidding and construction management)
Partnerships – Continued

• CDBG-Funded Projects
  • EAMD/AID/HC Pct and HC Community Services Department (or HUD directly)
  • EAMD/AID and a Utility Service Provider (COH, MUD)
  • EAMD/AID and Harris County (for leverage or bidding and construction management)
  • EAMD/AID and COH (Inter-Agency agreement to expedite reviews)

• ARPA-Funded Projects
  • Harris County and State of Texas
  • Harris County and Utility Service Provider (COH, MUD)
Partnership Between Harris County and EAMD/AID

The Harris County Technical Services Department assists EAMD and AID with the following:

- Preparation and submission of funding applications
- Acts as liaison between the Community Services Department and Districts
- Works with consulting engineer during design and construction
- Assists with Harris County project approvals and project bidding
- Provides construction management and inspection
Project Progress — What constitutes Success?

- East Aldine Management District
  - Water Connections to Date: 1,121
  - Sewer Connections to Date: 1,257

- Airline Improvement District
  - Water Connections to Date: 290
  - Sewer Connections to Date: 374
### Water & Sewer Projects

**East Aldine Management District**

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**Projects in Construction**
- Number of connections possible: 21

**Projects with Confirmed Grant Funding**
- Number of connections possible: 21

- Total: 1332, 2013, 3346, $57,600,000

**Date Saved:** 3/30/2019
QUESTIONS?