



April 4, 2024

Dear Westwood Shores Municipal Utility District Customer:

The Westwood Shores Municipal Utility District ("MUD") is holding a bond authorization election for eligible voters to vote FOR or AGAINST allowing the MUD to borrow up to \$7,000,000 to make improvements to our water and sanitary collection and treatment systems. The MUD board of directors does not make this request lightly; we recognize this is a significant amount of money. The District's Infrastructure needs rehabilitation, and the Board of Directors propose selling bonds to finance the projects.

Significant portions of our system are 40+ years old and in very poor repair. The increases in monthly water and sewer rates over the last 2 years have provided us with cash to complete long overdue maintenance and repairs, to deal with unforeseen expenses, and build a reserve of emergency funds. For example, in the last 18 months we have spent significant funds removing silt from the wastewater treatment plant, including approximately \$85,000 expected this month. We have also operated under emergency conditions when entering pipes have been totally obstructed and the motorized paddlewheels that keep sewage flowing have failed. In March we spent approximately \$37,100 replacing a collapsed manhole and our operator, Precision Utility LLC is working on a list of 35 projects to address maintenance issues with estimated costs of \$342,000 and an additional \$92,000 to upgrade a portion of our network of water valves.

With the above we are making progress to improve the reliability of our systems. The funds we currently receive from monthly revenues do not provide enough resources to cover the major replacement of our system infrastructure. Some examples include cracked sewer pipes, multiple crumbling manholes, an inoperable clarifying tank at the wastewater treatment plant and sub-standard conditions of our lift stations (which pump wastewater from customer pipes into our treatment plant). ~~Additionally, we need funds to expand our supply of drinking water for~~ customers, and we must comply with new Environmental Protection Agency regulations requiring the inventory and replacement of lead service lines in the District.

**Election Day is Saturday, May 4, 2024, and early voting will take place April 22 – April 30, 2024.** Additional information related to early and election day voting can be found at the Trinity County Elections Department website: <https://www.co.trinity.tx.us/page/trinity.Elections2>

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Trinity County will conduct and monitor the election and polling will be held at the MUD office at 75 Cottonwood. If voters authorize the future issuance of bonds, the new debt and interest payments will be repaid via property taxes.

**The MUD will hold Bond Authorization Election Forum at the Westwood Shores Clubhouse on Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and Saturday April 20 at 10:00am.** There will be a similar format for each meeting, with a formal presentation, and the ability for attendees to ask questions of the MUD Board and its consultants. We will explain more about district finances, our planned use of bond monies and the potential property tax impact based on our current planning assumptions.

For those who cannot attend either of the above, there will be two additional small group sessions at the MUD office at 75 Cottonwood on Wednesday, May 1, 5:30-6:30pm and Thursday, May 2, 4:00-5:00pm for attendees to meet with one or two of the MUD Board members. There will be limited seating, so please call the MUD office at 936-594-3411 if you wish to sign up.

We strongly encourage voters to ask questions and become informed about the status of our water and sanitary sewer systems.

If you wish to send questions in advance of the above meetings, you may send them to [customerservice@westwoodshoresmud.com](mailto:customerservice@westwoodshoresmud.com). Please include "Bond Election" in the subject line.

The MUD office will have copies of the Voter Information Documents and Engineer's Report available for the public. They will also be posted on the district website at: <https://westwoodshoresmud.com/bond-authorization-election>

Sincerely,

Westwood Shores MUD Board of Directors