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## **CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS SIGNS BENEFICIAL REUSE AGREEMENT WITH CALITERRA**

*City Takes Significant Step Toward Its Goal of Reusing Treated Wastewater*

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**DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS** – December 15, 2015 – The City of Dripping Springs today announced it has entered into a beneficial reuse agreement with Caliterra, the 600-acre master-planned community located near the intersection of RR 12 and FM 150. Per the agreement, Caliterra will receive 118,000 gallons per day (GPD) of treated effluent from the City for irrigation within the development.

The Dripping Springs City Council has expressed its desire to secure as many beneficial reuse agreements as possible with customers in the area, similar to its agreement with Caliterra. “We are actively pursuing as much beneficial reuse as we can,” said Mayor Todd Purcell. “And, we are walking the walk. In addition to the Caliterra agreement, which is substantial in its own right, we are in active negotiations with several other potential reuse customers. Plus, we have already begun to install the infrastructure necessary to support this wastewater strategy.”

The developer of Caliterra has plans to reuse the City’s treated effluent to irrigate parks and open space within the development. “To us, this was a no-brainer,” said Caliterra representative Kevin Kendrick. “Beneficial reuse makes so much sense from both an environmental stewardship and a financial perspective. When the City approached us with the idea, we jumped at the opportunity.”

The City is moving forward with plans to expand its wastewater system to meet current demand and proactively plan for future development. Hays County has experienced tremendous growth over the last 10 years with its population increasing by 60 percent. Substantial residential development is already underway and commercial development is also moving to the area.

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In October, the City filed for a discharge permit with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), a necessary step in the process, which would allow for the expansion of its current wastewater system to a permitted capacity of 995,000 GPD. It also will include a treated effluent pump station to deliver recycled water to reuse customers.

“A lot has been made about our filing for a discharge permit,” said Mayor Purcell. “What I want our citizens to know is that with their support the City’s long-term goal is for direct potable reuse, DPR. The idea behind DPR would be to treat and reuse our wastewater to supplement our drinking water supply, while reducing the need for wastewater disposal. To do this, and beneficial reuse, for that matter, a discharge permit is required. So, let me be clear, wastewater disposal is not our goal; wastewater reuse is where we are going, and I am confident we will get there. It’s too important to the long-term sustainability of our community.”

In February 2015, the City, in partnership with local landowner and businessman Gary Keller, commissioned a study aimed at evaluating the DPR option. “I believe that DPR is the key to how we best address our growing water and wastewater demands,” said Mayor Purcell. “And, in the meantime, our plan is to sign up as many beneficial reuse customers as possible.”

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