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CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS SIGNS BENEFICIAL REUSE AGREEMENT WITH HOWARD RANCH

City Takes Big Step Toward Goal of Reusing Treated Wastewater

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS – August 10, 2016 – The City of Dripping Springs today announced it has entered into another significant beneficial reuse agreement, this time with the Howard Ranch, a mixed-use development located one-and-a-half miles south of Dripping Springs at the intersection of FM 150 and RR 12. Per the agreement, Howard Ranch will receive 300,000 gallons per day (GPD) of treated effluent from the City for irrigation within the development. This contract brings the total of committed beneficial reuse to approximately 600,000 GPD—more than half of the capacity of 995,000 GPD discharge permit that the City filed for with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in October of last year.

The Dripping Springs City Council continues to secure as many beneficial reuse agreements as possible with customers in the area. “We have said from day one our plan is to do as much beneficial reuse of treated wastewater as possible,” said Mayor Todd Purcell. “The Howard Ranch agreement, similar to the one we signed with Caliterra, should signal just how serious we are about it.”

Erik Howard, the developer of Howard Ranch, has plans to reuse the City’s treated effluent for irrigation purposes within the development. “This is a chance to alleviate pressure on our irrigation system and the Dripping Springs Water Supply as we build out, as well as provide a model for future growth in the area,” said Howard. “I have followed closely the discussion around the City’s plans to expand its wastewater system; beneficial reuse makes so much sense to me, and I’m glad Howard Ranch is in a position to step up. We will certainly put it to good use.”

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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CODS/Howard Ranch Beneficial Reuse Agreement

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“I am probably starting to sound like a broken record to some in our community, but this is just such an important issue,” said Mayor Purcell. “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. The agreement with the Howard Ranch is a big step toward doing just that.”

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